REVIEW-CHRONICLE

OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BELARUS IN 2001

INTRODUCTION: GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

Presidential election became the main event of political and public life of the country, determining the principle trends of human rights violations in 2001. This election clearly showed us the officials' ignorance towards the international legal standards and the internal Belarusian legislation as well as their endeavor to provide the victory of the incumbent with every means possible.

The mass actions of the Belarusian democratic opposition, their scale and nature in 2001 had many differences compared to those of the previous years. It was connected with gross changes in the strategy of the opposition forces for the election period. Since the beginning of the year there could be observed de-concentration of the political protest actions with the prevalence of such forms as picketing, youth action, and performance. The Miensk events of March 25 occupy the central place among the street actions, being a real large-scale military operation of the Belarusian authorities with a large number of ordinary and special police units, internal military forces being attracted to it. 15 people, among them well-known political activists, were arrested. The meeting of May 1 (May Day) was the next mass action to be accompanied with a large number of detentions. About 20 people were arrested in Hrodna. On May 18 in Miensk 45 people were arrested for participation in the action of protest to the so-called "Second All-Belarusian Assembly". In December about 40 persons were detained in Kurapaty burial.

Almost all actions were disallowed by the authorities and therefore were carried out as unauthorized. The main police activity at them was detention of well-known politicians and the most active participants. Preventive detentions have become a widely spread practice as well. The law machinery continued to apply Article 167-1 of the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Belarus (CAO RB) along with Articles 167-2 and 166, punishing detainees with administrative fines and imprisonment.

The authorities also apply criminal responsibility to individuals as a means of both psychological pressure and initiation of criminal-process actions towards the political opponents (search, exaction, interrogation, confiscation, etc.). The threat of initiation of a criminal case and the criminal-process actions (allowed after the initiation of a criminal case) were the main forms of politically natured usage of criminal legislation in 2001.

The most odious political nature have the criminal cases initiated under Articles 367 and 368 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus (CC RB) for "slander, libel or insult to President of the Republic of Belarus). The above mentioned articles appeared in

the new Criminal Code, introduced in January 1, 2001. Unlike usual libel, slander or insult, in this case Prosecutor's office can initiate a case without application of the victim.

In 2001 criminal cases under Article 368 were initiated against 5 Babruisk and 3 Shklow citizens. None of the accused faced trial.

Four criminal cases were initiated under parts 1 and 2 of Article 367, one of them against Rechytsa citizen, 3 – on the fact of publications in "Rabochy", "Pahonia" and the unregistered "Narodny President" newspapers.

There were also initiated 6 cases (4 against persons, 2 – on facts of violation) for graffiti – wall scriptures that have become a form of political expression among opposition youth organizations in the conditions of the limited informational space. The first case (under Article 341 of CC RB) was connected with detention of four "Zubr" members in Minsk; the second started in Homel against public association "Civic Initiatives" – under Article 218 of CC RB. As a result four people underwent criminal responsibility: two were fined 100 minimal wages each, two received two-year terms of corrective labor. The other four cases were actively used (especially in Homel) for political purposes – in order to conduct interrogations, searches, confiscation of computers and supplies, etc.

A criminal case for violation of the first part of Article 183 of CC RB was groundlessly brought against the editorial staff of "Volley Hoard" newspaper.

Among the criminal cases of political nature we should also mention the case under Article 192 of CC RB against Piatro Mihurski, Shklow Town Coordinator of the Civic Initiative "Independent Monitoring". Article 192 provides responsibility of official, which Mr. Mihurski is not.

The consideration of the criminal case under Article 186-3 of the old CC RB, brought against V. Shochiku and M. Statkevich after "March of Freedom" action on October 17, 1999, continued in 2000 and 2001. M. Statkevich was fined 100 minimal wages. V. Shchukin was sentenced to pay 30 minimal wages and spend 3 months in prison as cumulative punishment for this and one more incident (Article 399, ostensible violation of the internal order of a building of the Ministry of Internal Affairs). In 2001, in accordance with the new Criminal Code, deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the 13th Convocation Uladzimir Kudzinaw was released. The prisoner of conscience A. Klimaw is still kept in jail.

In the end of the year there were arrested several Heads of Belarusian enterprises and big businessman (all in all, about 20 people). In particular, a criminal case was

brought against director of Miensk closed joint-stock company "Atlant" L. Kaluhin, who had participated in the electoral campaign as a candidate to presidential position. Among the possible reasons of this arrest wave could be disloyalty of the arrested to the executive power.

The problem of missing people in Belarus (in 1999-2000 a number of well-known people had disappeared – Yu. Zakharanka, V. Ganchar, A. Krasowski, Z. Zavadski) still concerned the Belarusian society in 2001. The authorities still haven't taken any efficient measures for investigation of these disappearances. On the contrary, the law machinery prevented public associations and initiatives from independent investigation of the facts of disappearances, limited public access to the information on these cases, pressurized the journalists and the printed editions that were dealing with this problem.

In 2001 only the case of PRT cameraman Zmitser Zavadski's resulted in trial. A group of persons with the former worker of "Almaz" special police unit Z. Ihnatovich is accused of Zavadski's kidnapping. However, the trial, which now continues at Miensk Regional Court, was declared closed in spite of numerous requests and appeals of publicity.

During the passed year there appeared additional information about relation of the Belarusian top-rank authorities and possibly Belarusian President to disappearances of the leading politicians and the journalist. This information includes evidence of the prosecution investigators A. Sluchak and Z. Petrushkevich, who went abroad, evidence of the KGB agent H. Uhlanitsa, and documents that were given to publicity by the candidate to presidential position U. Gancharyk.

Dozens of public actions were carried in order to draw public attention to the problem of the missing and the possible relation of the highest State officials, including Viktar Sheiman, Prosecutor General, to the disappearances. The authorities, in their turn, severely punished the action participants.

The harsh and inhumane treatment of participants of mass actions and detainees is a usual practice for workers of the law machinery. And none of those exceeding their powers have been ever punished for it. According to general data the persons detained for political reasons face physical abuse in 5-8% percent of cases, the rate of insults is much higher and can't be exactly determined because of high latency.

Most often the facts of beating are registered after mass actions, when a large number of people is detained. The most severe cases usually occur when workers of law machinery seek for information or need confession. Violence is used more often to

members of youth organizations in comparison to volunteers of electoral companies. Men face harsh treatment oftener than women.

Anther widespread police practice is unauthorized search. Protocols for distribution of printed production are often composed when a policeman finds it while searching a person or his/her belongings.

The police were detaining people for electoral symbols, printed production and Belarusian language, confiscating personal possessions, T-shirts, agitation literature, photo cameras, etc. In 60% cases they composed no documents registering their actions (reports, abbreviates), making it impossible for the victims to get back the confiscated belongings. The detention terms often exceed the legal norm of 3 hours, often coming to 5-6 hours. There are cases of 12-hours' detentions.

There have been registered many cases of massacre of politicians and activists of political campaigns by unknown people, so called "plainclothes". A distinctive feature of such cases is absence of any lucrative motivation. Some of the assaults are thoroughly planned, which makes victims state the relation of law machinery or secret services to these incidents.

In 2001 there were mass-scale violations of Belarusian and international legislation, abuses during the electoral campaign and calculation of the votes, persecution of the campaign participants and activists, opposition candidates. During the campaign the authorities conducted more than 1 000 detentions. Citizens could be detained for distribution of agitation means, electoral symbols, organization of meetings with the electorate, for "identification", "check-up of the passport regime", kept at police points for 5-6 hours without composition of detention reports. The detentions were accompanied with psychological pressure, confiscation of printed editions and, in certain cases, even physical violence, which impeded the work of headquarters of opposition candidates.

In most cases the detentions weren't registered and detainees were released after a certain period of time. Otherwise, reports of detention for violation of Articles 143, 156, 166, 172-1, etc. of CAO RB were composed. More than 100 people underwent administrative responsibility for agitation.

Searches, confiscation of organizational equipment, agitation and printed production at the headquarters of opposition candidates, offices of public associations and private accommodations of people, enrolled in the electoral campaign hindered its normal development. There were registered 20 cases of the above mentioned actions for

the summer months. A number of these robberies were carried out as check-up of financial activity (in spite of the illegality of confiscation or search before initiation of criminal case or fetching out any violations). The ostensible reasons for searches and confiscation were anonymous telephone calls about preparation of a terror action, operative information about hiding arms, murders in the neighboring buildings and even check-ups of the passport regime.

On the eve of the election and on the voting day telephones at the headquarters of the opposition candidate Uladzimir Gancharyk, Civic Initiative "Independent Monitoring", parties and public associations were disconnected. In the evening of September 9 the telephones of the most non-State bodies related to the elections, were disconnected. Even mobile phones didn't function in the center of the city, the web-sites of independent Mass Media and some public organizations were also blocked.

There have been registered numerous cases of dismissal from works and expulsion from the higher educational establishments for participation in the electoral campaign at its different stages as well as for participation in the Public Initiative "Independent Monitoring".

The authorities dispersed pickets and meetings with the electorate, illegally prohibited agitation in certain areas – usually near administrative buildings or busy places.

The leading place among the bodies that persecuted people during the electoral campaign belongs to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. KGB participated quite often, but not so boldly, in some cases Prosecutor's office was used. Bodies of State committee of financial investigations pressurized juridical bodies.

The independent press faced other forms of pressure: cessation and obstacles to distribution of printed editions, confiscation of editions, pressure towards the independent Mass Media, warnings for the printed articles, confiscation of the computer equipment and supplies, searches, censorship.

If one takes into account the present structure of the informational space in the Republic of Belarus, the State monopolization of the electronic Mass Media, it becomes obvious that distribution of newspapers has provided an important source of alternative information. There was a great number of detentions for distribution of registered newspapers. On August 17, 2001 there were arrested 216 000 copies of the newspaper "Nasha Svaboda". The authorities also arrested editions of such newspapers as

"Narodnaya Vola", "Rabochy", and "Belaruskaya Maladziozhnaya". All those editions were registered ones, that's why their distribution couldn't be considered illegal.

Forcible appointment of a State official to a governing position at "Magic" non-State private printing house created conditions for censorship, some editorial staffs had to change the content of the newspaper numbers several times in order to get permission for their printing. Some numbers were even printed with white spots.

During the year in the editorial staffs of different Mass Media and printing houses there were conducted check-ups of financial activity, searches, etc. which sometimes paralyzed their activity. Confiscation of equipment was used towards the newspaper "Narodnaya Vola" and four regional editions.

In 2001 the independent Hrodna newspaper "Pahonia" was illegally closed on a suit of the Prosecutor's office.

According to opinions of opposition activists, the secret services were listening to telephone conversations, checked the correspondence and E-mail messages, collected and analyzed information.

The initiated criminal cases, especially on the fact of explosion on the territory of the Russian Embassy allowed KGB workers to interrogate a great number of members of youth organizations. The number of the interrogated on the "explosion case" alone exceeded 100 persons. People could be also interrogated on other criminal cases even if they couldn't have any relation to the investigated events. There were cases when property of activists of the electoral campaign was confiscated and returned only after the end of the election.

KGB arranged numerous "talks" with the people, detained at mass actions, for posting agitation, members of youth organizations, especially in the regions, with the following aims: to receive information, pressurize people, enroll informers. Sometimes they used blackmail and physical abuse. A young Homel citizen committed suicide, being blackmailed by KGB workers.

On the eve of the election a considerable number of people who were responsible for different aspects of the electoral campaign, received telephone "warnings" to abstain from active measures for fear of being "severely punished" otherwise.

In 2001 youth was one of the most active parts of Belarusian society, People of 16-27 years old underwent the majority of the illegal police actions, preventive detentions,

interrogations, administrative punishments. The main pressure of KGB and the Prosecutor's office was directed at this very group.

The mass detentions of youth were connected with youth actions. The most famous of them are "Day of Psychical Health" on April 21 and "Independence Day" on July 27, football matches with the participation of the national team and Kurapaty events in December. Most of the detainees underwent administrative responsibility, being charged with violation of Article 167-1, the third part of Article 143 and Article 172-1 of CAO RB. These articles embrace 90 % of all cases. The overall number of detentions of youth exceeds 300.

There are two main forms of influence on public organizations and political parties in Belarus. First of all, there are measures directed at liquidation of a public association (party) and manipulation with the threat of liquidation. Naturally, deprivation of the status of juridical body can seriously impede the organizational and legal activity of public associations and exclude a party from political life. Secondly, the hindrances to the activity by confiscation of the organizational equipment, financial check-ups, searches, etc.

Liquidation of a public association or a party is an exceptional measure. During the year there were liquidated a number of organizations, including Belarusian Student Association and Youth Information Center. The process of liquidation of some other organizations ("Hart", "Civic Initiatives"), whose equipment and other property had been already confiscated, started.

On the eve of the election the Ministry of Justice used another means of influence on public organizations – warnings to them. For instance, Public Association "Human Rights Center "Viasna" received two warnings from the Ministry on Justice on the eve of the election, which put to endangerment its existence and created additional obstacles to registration of its observers at polling stations.

Creation of obstacles to the activity through check-ups, searches, exactions and confiscations in 2001 had close connection to the electoral campaign and its basic elements: agitation and mobilization campaigns, Public Initiative "Independent Monitoring".

Realization of the right to association remains a topical issue in Belarus. A considerable number of the NGOs who faced with different kinds of obstacles during registration have to continue their activity without being registered, risking to undergo

administrative punishment under Article 167-10 of CAO RB. Last year this Article was applied to members of "Young Front" and "Zubr".

Year 2001 was distinguished through activation of trade unions and unions of businessman. In order to achieve their goals, members of these organizations held spontaneous and organized strikes, meetings and pickets.

Usually, the authorities fear to administratively punish workers for organization and participation in mass actions, even if the latter ones stop the traffic (as during the strike at Tractor Factory on September 28, 2001). Administrative punishments were mostly used in the cases of individual actions of protest.

The main measures of neutralization of the movement of workers and businessman were directed at destruction of their organizational bodies. First of all it concerns trade unions, especially after they clearly expressed their opposition-mindedness. The policy towards trade unions had two directions: gradual replacement of the leaders of Belarusian Federation of Trade Unions by persons, loyal to the State (and/or possible split) and liquidation of independent trade unions by depriving their primary organizations of registration. Here we can mention the ruling of the Constitutional Court concerning the order of paying membership fees, made in the end of 2001, as a part of the above mentioned campaign.

In Belarus the problem of the discriminatory cultural policy remains unsolved. In spite of all efforts, there weren't established any higher educational establishments with the Belarusian language of instruction. The policy of decreasing the number of pupils in Belarusian-language secondary educational establishments continues. These establishments are reorganized by the State with the worsening of the level and conditions of education. The suspicious or negative attitude to the Belarusian language as the possible source of disloyalty to the present government was approved and supported by the State as well.

In the passed year Belarus also experienced a number of cultural losses and assaults on the historical memory: in spite of all protest a part of the old city center was destroyed, the reconstruction of Miensk ring road was started at the place of mass fusillades in 1937-1941, Kurapaty burial.

Protection of Kurapaty was a separate episode of public resistance in Belarus. It is well-known that after Lukashenka's election there have been a number of attempts to decrease the historical value of the graves and even prove that there had been buried

victims of fascism. The Prosecutor's office has conducted several check-ups of the documents, related to Kurapaty, but their results weren't given any publicity.

In autumn 2001 it became known that the reconstruction of the ring road could seize a part of the burial territory. The campaign against destruction of this place of historical memory started in the end of September. Belarusian youth organizations kept day-and-night duty there. The problem gained large publicity and was accompanied not only by resistance to the actions of the State workers, but also by attempts of dialogue of the established public initiative "For Salvation of Kurapaty" with representatives of Ministries, by additional examinations, round tables.

On October 8 the builders who were reconstructing the road violated the established agreements and started working in the so called "demarcation zone" without supervision of archeologists from the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences. Opposition of ordinary people and special police units resulted in serious clashes on October 8 and 9. As a result 40-45 people were detained, about 25 underwent administrative responsibility for resistance to police workers (Article 166 of CAO RB) and participation in unauthorized action (167-1 of CAO RB). The detentions were made with violence, massacre and usage of teargas.

During this year "Human Rights Center "Viasna" registered violations of human rights in Belarus, first of all those connected with elimination of the constitutional freedoms of the citizens: the right to expression, peaceful assemblies, meetings, associations, the freedom of choice and liberty of discussion, equality in rights and dignity, the right to work, life and privacy… This "Chronicle Review" is a result of our work. It's a pity, but from year 1994, when A. Lukashenka came to power, the country is moving from the rudiments of democracy to full-scale autocracy. In their struggle with the democratic forces, the authorities violate the Constitution, the internal legislation, changing it for their own purposes, and internationally acknowledged laws of development of civic society and basic human rights.

JURISDICTION AND LEGISLATION CHANGES, WHICH LEAD TO LIMITING THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS

On January 1 the appropriate laws introduced three new codes, Criminal Code, Criminal-Process Code and Criminal-Executive Code of the Republic of Belarus. The National Assembly adopted and approved the new Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus in July 2000. The officials planned to enforce the codes on January 1, 2000, but it was delayed for a year. Only in the beginning of 2001 A. Lukashenka insisted on enforcement f the new legislative documents. In his speeches he was described the adopted Criminal Code as more humane and milder in comparison to the old one and almost the best one in Europe. However, according to evaluation of independent experts, there was no easing of punishments in the new code. On the contrary, the articles of the new CC RB provide harder punishments for political opponents and democratic opposition. The law machinery almost immediately started using the new Article 368 “Insult to President of the Republic of Belarus”. The new code widens the system of punishments, assessed by courts for the committed crimes. For instance, according to Article 48 there are introduced such forms of punishment as public work, limitation of freedom, arrest. The longest term of imprisonment is 25 years. Lifelong imprisonment is considered as an alternative to capital punishment. What concerns capital punishment, according to Article 59 it is used as an “exceptional means of punishment” for the crimes, connected with premeditated murder with aggravating circumstances. Capital punishment is still not used towards under-aged persons and women. The new norm of this Article is introduction of the maximal age (65 years), after which a person can’t undergo capital punishment. The most interesting form of punishment, from the practical point of view is arrest. It was introduced in 1997, but was not used for punishment. In 2001 arrest was actively used (there was even a request to judges to abstain from the intensive usage of this measure because of absence of the special arrest houses and keeping of the arrested in investigative isolators with the inappropriate conditions). This measure of punishment gains its popularity because of its being quite severe (it provides full isolation). With the introduction of the new forms of punishments the system of alternatives to fines and imprisonment is widened as well.

On March 14 A. Lukashenka signed Decree 8 “About some measures to develop the order of receiving and usage of the free foreign aid”. This Decree established new rules of registration of the foreign aid and limitations to its usage for “political” purposes. It provides responsibility for violation of the registration rules in the form of fine and confiscation of the received equipment, including the rented items, which is a violation of the personal property rights. In the end of the year there were some changes made: now

the aid is to be registered at Board of Presidential Affairs, which makes the situation yet more complicated. This Decree also allows liquidation of an organization for a single violation of its norms, and is used against political opponents, NGOs.

On May 7 A. Lukashenka signed Decree 11 “About some measures to develop the order of holding meetings, street processions, demonstrations, other mass actions and pickets in the Republic of Belarus”. This Decree established yet harder rules of holding mass political actions and mass actions, including sportive and cultural ones. Now only parties, trade unions and other organizations can organize assemblies, meetings, street actions, demonstrations and pickets with more than 1 000 participants. The Decree puts obstacles to holding of mass actions and raises responsibility for possible violations at them. By the way, it concerns not only political measures, but also religious, sportive, cultural ones – liturgies, contests, concerts, etc. The organizations, parties and trade unions that are to bear the status of organizers (according to the Decree), become fully responsible for the order at the actions. Every provocation can result in closing down the organizer body. The Decree states: “Political parties, trade unions, other organizations, whose responsible officials failed to provide order of organization or holding of assemblies, meetings, street processions or pickets which resulted in large-scale loss or considerable harm to the rights and legal interests of citizens, organizations, public or the State, can be liquidated according to the existing order for single violation of the legislation about assemblies, meetings, street processions, demonstrations and pickets”. The Decree has separate points explaining the terms “large-scale loss” –10 000 minimal wages or USD 42 000 and “considerable harm” – disruption of a mass action, obstacles to the traffic or severe bodily injure.

On June 26 Lukashenka signed decree #20 "About obligatory declaring of income and property of a candidate to the post of the president of the Republic of Belarus, his relatives, wife (husband), and his parents and some other measure, directed at conducting open, free and fair elections".

The authorities claim that the decree is aimed at conducting democratic, free and fair elections. According to the new decree, all candidates for presidency should fill out not only their own income and property declaration, but also the ones of all their close relatives (wife/husband, siblings, parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren)… The Decree determines, that in a 10-day term after registering a candidate, The Central Election Commission informs the mass media about the declared property and finances. It is provided in the Decree, that in case the Central Election Commission found inaccuracies or incorrect information in the declaration, it can make a decision to cancel

the candidate's registration. Decree # 20 was signed after the campaign had started and by one of the main candidates. This is a direct violation of the election legislation.

2. PERSECUTION OF MASS ACTION ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS

On January 4 Chyhunachny Court finished the consideration of administrative case against the participants of the unauthorized picket on December 10. The members of United Civic Party Alena Zaleskaya, Siarhei Vasenka, Dzmitry Muski and Anatol Zakharaw were charged with violation of articles 167 part 1 and part 2 of the Code of Administrative Offences. Judge Sviatlana Tufan made a decision to impose administrative fines on:

Alena Zaleskaya – 150 minimal wages

Siarhei Vasenka – 150 minimal wages

and warnings on Dzmitry Muski and Anatol Zakharaw.

On January 5 the Human Rights Day picket participants (Uladzimir Vialichkin, Yawhen Bialasin, Siarzhuk Bakhun, Aleh Dydyshka and Kiryl Danko) received summons to Leninski District Court. They are charged with violation of articles 167 part 1, 167 part 2, and 166 of the Code of Administrative Infringements. On the eve of the New Year Bialasin and Bakhun were visited by policemen, who suggested that they should sign the reports of administrative infringement, which had not been drawn up during the detention and 24 hours the guys spent in the jail of Leninski District Board of Internal Affairs. The trial over the participants of the action, dedicated to the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, will take place on January 9, 2001 in Leninski Court of Brest City.

On 9 January the Minsk City Court heard the complaint of Uladzimir Kishkurna and ruled that the 15 September 2000 administrative detention of Uladzimir Kishkurna carried out by the Centralny District DIA workers was illegal.

On January 9 Leninski Court of Brest was supposed to hear the case of the people, who had been detained during the celebration of the human rights day on December 10.

On December 10 Uladzimir Vialichkin, Yawhen Bialasin, Siarzhuk Bakhun, Aleh Dydyshka and Kiryl Danko had been detained and had spent a night in the jail. The police had drawn up the reports of the administrative infringement by the terms of article 167 part 1 (unauthorized picketing) and article 166 (insubordination to the legal order or demand of the police officer). Nadzeya Dudarava, the legal counselor of the OSCE

ambassador, and many mass media reporters came to the trial. However, the trial was postponed to January 12.

On 12 January the Leninski District Court of Brest had a third hearing of the case of the citizens A. Dydyshka, K. Danko, U. Vialichkin, S. Bakhun, Ya. Bialasin. The courtroom was crowded. Since the witnesses called to court by the police did not appear, Judge A. Miraniuk postponed the consideration of the case till 15 January 2001. Journalists and Nadzeya Dudarava, legal counsel of the OSCE ambassador to Belarus, were in the courtroom.

On January 15, in Slutsk, the authorities distrained the property of Alexander Katlarow, military pensioner, member of Belarusian Helsinki Committee, and one of the organizers of the protest action on October 8, 2000 (All-Belarusian March of Freedom). Bailiffs Lubow Silachowa and Tamara Lapitskaya came to the 2-room apartment of Katlarow at 8.30 a.m. The district police officer asked 2 neighbors to be the witnesses. The property was distrained, and Katlarow was given an “Act of distraint and arrest of property”. It should be mentioned, that Katlarow had been fined 150 minimal salaries (540 thousand rubles, about $500).

On January 15 the trial over the human rights activists who had been detained on December 10, 2000 (The Day of Universal Declaration of Human Rights) was over. All of them were fined.

Yawhen Bialasin (the deputy chair of Brest branch of Belarusian Popular Front) – 200 minimal salaries (720 thousand rubles – about $600)

Siarhei Bakhun (the chair of the regional branch of “Young Front”) – 200 minimal salaries (720 thousand rubles – about $600)

Uladzimir Vialichkin (the chair of Brest branch of “Viasna”) – 20 minimal salaries (72 thousand rubles – about $60)

Kiryl Danko (member of “Young Front”) – 20 minimal salaries (72 thousand rubles – about $60)

Aleh Dydyshka (member of the Free Trade Union) – 20 minimal salaries (72 thousand rubles – about $60).

On January 22 the Barysaw Town Court Considered the case initiated against Ales Abramovich for his having organized an unauthorized procession of the striking workers of the Barysaw Glass Factory on November 21, 2000. Judge A. Bolataw refused

Abramovich's petition to summon his testifiers and fined him 150 minimal salaries (about $ 450) for the violation of Art. 167.1 of the Code of Administrative Infringements of the Republic of Belarus (organization of an unauthorized mass event)

At 12 a.m. on February 18 an unauthorized picket held at Freedom Square protested against the building of the High-octane Petrol Enterprise in the free economic zone of Vitebsk (former territory of the airport "Zhurzhava"). Policemen from the Vitebsk Kastrychnitski District Board of Internal Affairs asked the pickets Iryna Baidak, Siarhei Aksimovich and Eduard Bokhan to go with them to the Kastrychnitski DBIA. The police lieutenant-colonel who directed the operation of the pickets' delivery to the DBIA prohibited HRC "Viasna" observers to take photos. He stated that there was a special order of the Vitebsk City Executive Committee that prohibited to take photos at unauthorized events. The Vitebsk branch of HRC "Viasna" appealed to the Vitebsk City Executive Committee asking to explain what order the police lieutenant-colonel had mentioned.

On March 5 the action dedicated to the problem of famous Belarusian people disappearance took place in Minsk. It took place near the "Pioneer" cinema. Several young people came there with the portraits of the missing people and three participants tried to raise big board with the slogan "Make the kidnappers answer!" At that moment Anton Tsialezhnikaw, Andrei Piatrow and Zmitser Abramovich were detained and brought to Leninski police department. They were given the calls to the court at 15:00 of March 6. The participants were detained by the officer of Lukashenka's security service Viktar Martanovich. On the trial on March 6 they were sentenced according to the article 167.1 part 2 of the Administrative Code "violation of the procedure of organizing and conducting of the pickets". Andrei Piatrow and Zmitser Abramovich were sentenced to the fine of 20 minimal salaries. Anton Tsialezhnikaw – to the 15 day in prison as he was found guilty on this article for the second time during the year.

On March 6 the continuation of the action dedicated to the people disappearance took place. The participants came out to the Skaryna avenue with the portraits of the missing people. According to some estimation, there were about 150 people in the chain. The picket lasted for about half an hour. Tsimafei Dranchuk was detained after the action and took him to police station. The policemen checked his documents. His passport was rather worn out. He was put on record for "keeping the documents in the inappropriate state" and then let go. Dranchuk said to the policemen that his passport is "worn out" by policemen, who repeatedly detain him after peaceful actions of the opposition.

On March 15, Iryna Baidak, Eduard Bokhan and Palina Khlopkava organized a picket on Lenin Street in Vitebsk. The picketers had the posters with slogans: "Where is Viktar Ganchar?", "Where is Yury Zakharanka?", "Where is Anatol Krasowski?" in their hands. The picket lasted for half an hour and gradually turned into an action "Constitution Day", organized by local social democrats.

On March 25, the Day of Belarusian People's Republic, at 14.00 the representatives of political parties and social organizations gathered in Yubileinaya Square of Minsk to participate in the unsanctioned march. The number of participants reached 3000 people. They were holding white-red-white flags, posters, were singing Belarusian songs. Great concentration of police and special forces could be noticed in the area of the square. Uladzimir Naumaw the minister of the internal affairs supervised the event. The policemen were repeatedly ordering the people to disperse, reminding of the administrative and criminal punishment for violating of social order. The participants moved along Tankavaya and Dorsa streets to the Masheraw Avenue. The column tried to turn to Freedom Square but police and special forces blocked the way. The minister himself was standing in front of them and directing the participants to the monument. The people had to turn to the small area before the monument (dedicated to the victory against fascism), where the improvised rally began. Several people made speeches: Viachaslaw Siwchyk (deputy head of BPF “Adradzhenne”), Vincuk Viacorka (head of BPF “Adradzhenne”), Paval Seviarynets (Leader of “Young Front”), Alaksei Karol (social-democratic party “Narodnaya Hramada” fraction)

Additional police forces were brought to the scene by buses and cars. They lined in a square, heaving surround the demonstration from three sides and started to “clean” the area pushing people to the park. First detentions were made. People were taken out of the crowd and brought to the buses. The participants tried to save the detained and the fighting began. In half an hour the action was dispersed.

In Minsk the police detained Vincuk Viacorka, chairperson of the Belarusian Popular Front, Ales Bialatski, chairperson of the Human Rights Center "Viasna", Ludmila Hraznova, member of the Supreme Soviet of the 13th convocation, acting chairperson of Christian Conservative Party Yuras Belenki and others. People in civil clothes, who came on "Volga" and 4 "Zhyguli", detained about 10 people on Charviakova Street. Viachaslaw Alkhowski was brutally beaten when detained. Yawhenia Pikul (under age granddaughter of human rights activist Valery Shchukin) was released from police station and given back to her mother. In general, the police detained 15 people during and after the action.

In Hrodna Belarusian Popular Front initiated and organized the celebration of the Freedom Day. The action lasted for about 2.5 hours. Hrodna authorities permitted to conduct a rally in Leninski Komsomol Park. But the participants started to get together at 2 p.m. on Lenin Square, in the center of the city, as it had been planned before. The square was surrounded by special forces police. The policemen blocked the square and ordered the people to disperse, saying that the square had been mined. About 5 thousand people, who had come to the celebration, found themselves in a park across the road. It was impossible to go anywhere from that place. The action participants protested by sitting down on the ground. Gradually the policemen pushed the people to the bridge. The participants headed to Kalozha church, marching down the central streets of the city. The police followed very closely. The people gathered near Kalozha church for the rally. Siarhei Malchyk, chair of Hrodna BPF, Uladzimir Khilmanovich, chair of Hrodna Lew Sapeha Foundation, V. Sazonaw, chair of Hrodna Belarusian Social democratic Hramada and Sviatlana Nekh, vice-chair of "Maladaya Hramada" took the floor. Before the action the police detained and bet Hrodna newspaper “Birzha informatsyi” correspondent Dzmitry Yahoraw (underage). Before the meeting began he made several photos of the special buses designed to transport detained and arrested people. Several policemen attacked him, took the camera away and pushed in the bus. They didn’t pay any attention to his words that he was a journalist. In the bus the policemen ordered him to sit dawn on the floor and put his hand behind his head. Then they started to beat him with fists and feet to the head and chest. At the time specially trained dog was in the bus. The policemen pressed the young journalist psychologically and asked: “Would you like to meet the dog?” They were threatening him: “We will find you if you write about it in the paper.” When the journalist asked to inform his parents about the detention he was beaten again. Afterwards they gave back the broken camera, recorder and let him go.

In Vitebsk, the united opposition celebrated Freedom Day by a rally on Lenin Square. About 100 people (mostly members of the 3 parties: BSDH, BPF and UCP) gathered here at noon. Members of Christian Conservative Party conducted unauthorized pickets near Ratusha Square and on Voli Square.

In Brest the police detained 4 people. Yawhen Bialasin, Vital Lazarenkaw, Viktar Kuchynski distributed Freedom day cards on Savetskaya and Mayakowskaha Street. They were detained together with a passer-by who stopped for a few minutes (his last name is unknown).

In Maladechna a festive meeting was organized. The participants listened to reports from the history of Belarusian People's Republic. Organizers read the letter of congratulation by Ivonka Survilla, the present head of BPR government. The meeting

ended with a concert of Andrei Melnikaw, famous singer-song writer, Maladechna poet Lavon Tsimokhin and choir, headed by Alaksei Fralow. The meeting participants brought flowers to the memorial sign "To Martyrs for Freedom and Independence of Belarus".

In Homel the police detain Anatol Paplawny, the head of Homel branch of Belarusian Popular Front, during the festive picket. The picketers were distributing leaflets. Anatol Paplawny was released after he signed the report of detention.

In Shklow festive football event took place. At the same time Belarusian Popular Front members spread leaflets, which congratulated the citizens to the Freedom Day.

In Shchuchyn the members of the local democratic organizations conducted a Freedom Day picket, which lasted for 2 hours. The picketers held the following slogans: "Long Live Democratic and Independent Belarus!", "Decent Life to Every Person!", "We will not let engage Belarus in foreign wars!". The picket participants distributed independent democratic press and leaflets. The picket drew much attention and interest, especially among young people. On the eve of the Freedom Day, graffiti appeared in the town: "Long Live Belarus!" and "God. Belarus. Freedom", and others.

In Babruisk about 100 people took part in a Freedom Day picket, which lasted for 2.5 hours. Activists handed out leaflets and "Rabochy" newspaper. The special services agents video-taped the participants. However, in spite of the fact, that the action was unauthorized, nobody was detained.

In Kletsk local activists conducted a festive meeting in the office of NGO "Center of Europe". The meeting was organized by local BPF.

On March 25 15 participants of the Freedom Day were detained in Minsk. Trials over the detained continued till the end of the month.

March 26 in Central district court.

Maxim Kukso (born in 1980) detained near the monument dedicated to the victory over fascism. Spent the night in custody. The judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich delayed the trial to 10 a.m. of March 27.

Dzmitry Chubarenka (20 years old) detained near the monument. Spent the night in custody in Akrestsina Street. The judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich considered the case. According to article 167/1 part 2 of the Administrative Code (repeated participation in unsanctioned action he was sentenced to 10 days in prison.

Elina Novik (born in 1975) – detained near the monument. Spent the night in custody in Akrestsina Street. The judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich considered the case according to the article 167/1 part 2. The trial is delayed to 14:00 on March 27

Viktar Bekesh (born in 1929) – detained near the monument. Released for the night. The judge Pawluchuk gave him a warning according to the article 167/1 part 1.

Dzmitry Kuzmitski (Lida city inhabitant) – detained near the monument. The judge Pawluchuk considered the article 167/1 part 1. The trial is delayed to 14:00 on March 28.

Nina Yarmalinskaya (retired) – detained near the monument. Released for the night. The trial is delayed

Iosif Burko – detained on Arlowskaya street with Vincuk Viacorka. The judge Pawluchuk considered the article

167/1. The trial is delayed to 12:00 on March 29.

Ales Bialatski (head Of HRC “Viasna”) detained near Maria Magdalene church. Spent the night in custody in Akrestsina Street. The judge Pawluchuk considered the article 167/1 part 2 (organization of the unsanctioned action). The trial is delayed to 12:00 on April 2

Ludmila Hraznova (deputy of 13th Supreme council) – detained near the monument. Spent the night in custody in Akrestsina Street. The judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich considered the article 167/1 part 1. Sentenced to 20 minimal salaries fine.

Vincuk Viacorka (Head of BPF “Adradzhenne”) detained on Arlowskaya Street. Released from the Central district police department after 21:00. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich considered the article 167/2 of the Administrative Code. The trial is delayed to 14:00 on March 28.

Mikhail Valochka (born in1934) – detained near the monument. Released after 20:00. The judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich considered the article 167/1 part 1 of the Administrative Code. The trial is delayed to 10:00 on March 28.

March 27 in Central district court of Minsk.

1. Elina Novik (born in 1975, dentist from Slutsk district) – detained near the monument. Spent the night in custody in Akrestsina Street. The judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich considered the case according to the article 167/1 part 2. And sentenced Elina to 20 minimal salaries fine (114000BRB, about 100$). In the court Elina Novik spoke only Belarusian. She explained the participation in the following way: ”I consider this day

as a saint day for Belarus. The Belarusian People Republic was announced this day. I wanted to celebrate this day by walking along the streets with the small white-red-white flag. Special forces solders took my flag away and broke the stick. I didn't want to give the flag away. I was pushed to the bus." Two Special Forces solders who detained her were giving evidence in the court – Siarhei Kavalewski and Alexander Kowtun. They told that they had an order to notice the most active participants and detain them. According to their evidence E. Novik was detained in order to "prevent the conflict", as she was "grabbing the policemen by the uniform". It is necessary to say that photos of brutal detention of Elina were shown by different information agencies.

2.Maxim Kukso (born in 1980, student of medical college) detained near the monument dedicated to the victory over fascism. Spent the night in custody. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich sentenced Maxim to 20 minimal salaries fine (114000BRB, about 100$).

On March 27 chairperson of Belarusian Popular Front Vincuk Viacorka, his deputy Alaksei Kavalets, chair of United Civic Party Anatol Labedzka, deputy chair of Belarusian Social democratic Party (Narodnaya Hramada) Alaksei Karol, and a member of "Viasna" Barys Giunter conducted a press-conference, dedicated to events of March 25 in Minsk. Peaceful rally was violently dispersed, some action participants were beaten and detained. Anatol Labedzka stated: "Minister of Internal Affairs Naumaw played a small Chechnya war". The political leaders think, that pressure will grow till presidential election, but democratic forces will be doing everything possible in order to win.

March 28, Centralny district court.

1. Vincuk Viacorka (Chair of Belarusian Popular Front) – filed an appeal for the trial to be conducted in Belarusian, which is one of the official languages. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich refused to satisfy his request, but Viacorka insisted. The judge announced a break for 1 hour, and later postponed the trial to March 29.

2. Mikhail Valochka – judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich fined him 20 minimal wages (about $100) (article 167.1 part 1 of the Administrative Offences Code)

3. Dzmitry Kuzmitski – judge Pawluchuk announced a reprimand (article 167.1 part 1 of the Administrative Offences Code)

March 29, Centralny district court.

1. Iosif Burko – judge Pawluchuk announced a reprimand (article 167.1 part 1 of the Administrative Offences Code)

2. Vincuk Viacorka – judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich violated all norm of the procedure: she did not let attorney Tsurko to defend Viacorka, deprived Viacorka of the right to have the final speech, and did not satisfy any of the appeals. The trial started at 10.00 and continued till 12.00. Then the judge announced a break till 4.00 p.m. At 5.30 p.m. the judge turned out all appeals as "not linked to the case" and immediately read out the verdict to arrest Viacorka for 15 days. Viacorka was immediately taken into custody under supervision of deputy head of Centralny DBIA Barsukow. Uladzimir Labkovich, a member of the legal group of Belarusian Popular Front, who was present in the court, declared: "The judge violated the legislation by not giving the floor to Viacorka's defender: she violated Viacorka's right to legal assistance, to use the services of a lawyer. The defender was left to play a secondary role. The judge demonstrated her incompetence and conscious disrespect to law". Vincuk Viacorka said before going to the Detention Center: "This does not have any limits – barefaced violation of the procedures and barefaced violation of my rights. All the breaks and delays demonstrate that the judge was receiving direct instructions from the top political officials of Belarus".

3. Dzmitry Kuzmitski – judge Pawluchuk announced a reprimand (article 167.1 part 1 of the Administrative Offences Code)

Belarusian Popular Front consider such actions of the regime as panic, full uncertainty in their future, which can be more and more seen with the election coming up.

On March 27 the leader of “Young Front” Paval Seviarynets was detained near the TV center on Makayonka Street. Paval Seviarynets was brought to the Pershamaiski district police department, than to the Central district police department. At 16:20 he was brought to the Central district court. The judge Pawluchuk considered the case according to the article 167/1 part 2 (organization or repeated participation in unsanctioned action). It was meant the action of March 25 – Freedom Day this time. Paval Seviarynets appealed for the defender. Because of this the trial was delayed to 12:00 on April 5.

On April 2, 2001 the Vitebsk Kastrychnitski District Court considered the case of the 18 February ecological picket participants, directed against building of a Russian Petrol Enterprise in the free economic zone. Judge Aksana Afanaseva found the pickets guilty of violation of order of the picket organization and holding and passed the following sentences: Iryna Baidak –warning; Eduard Baidak – warning; Siarhei Anisimovich – fine of 150 minimal salaries (app. $657). On April 3 Yury Belenki was summoned to court. He was accused of having taken part in one of the actions devoted to the celebration of the

March 25 Freedom Day. The well-known Belarusian defense lawyer Vera Stramkowskaya defended him in the Minsk Central District Court. The policemen who were giving evidence, gave false testimonies. For instance, Major Barsukow said he could "swear on the Bible" he had seen Belenki not far from Yubileinaya Square, near the obelisk "The heroic city of Minsk". But… Major Barsukow couldn't have seen Yu. Belenki there anyway, because the latter was at that time at Skaryna Square (the two mentioned places are quite far from each other). He was there as the Conservative-Christian Party planned to carry out its action at Independence Square. However, the police didn't admit them to the place.

On April 4 the trial over Yury Belenki was continued in Minsk Central District Court. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich sentenced him to 15 days of arrest in the detention center in Akrestsina Street.

On April 4 in Barysaw a picket in support of the Russian Independent TV-company NTV was carried out. Members of the Belarusian Social-democratic Party (BSDP) Alexander Abramovich, Alesia Yasiuk, Maryna Statkevich, Zmitser Fiadorchanka and Ales Baradula went out to the Barysaw Central square with the poster "Hands off NTV". In a quarter of an hour all the pickets were detained. The trial was appointed on 12 p.m. on April 5.

The Barysaw Town Court sentenced A. Abramovich to 10 days of imprisonment for violation of the second part of Article No. 167.1 (organization of an unauthorized picket). M. Statkevich, Z. Fiadorchanka and A. Baradula were warned. A. Yasiuk didn't come to the court as in the call-up there wasn't specialized the number of the room she was to come to and the capacity in which she was summoned.

On April 4 in Hrodna the trials over the BPF activists Vadzim Saranchukow (Head of the Hrodna branch of the Young Front) and Siarhei Malchyk (Chairman of the BPF branch), accused of organization of an unauthorized procession on March 25, were delayed. The cases of two more Hrodna citizens, Andrei Mialeshka and Alexander Mikhalchyk, are also pending trial.

On April 5 in Vitebsk youth organizations carried out a picket in support of the imprisoned opposition leaders. Viktar Shlakhtsin, Head of Vitebsk branch of the Young Front, Yury Korban, the executive secretary of the Public association Center of Youth Initiatives "Kontur", and Kastus Smolikaw, Head of the youth initiative "Educator", held posters with the following inscriptions: "We demand the release of the leaders of the Belarusian opposition Vincuk Viacorka and Ales Bialatski", "The court system is to be

open and independent", "Down with the criminal authorities!". The flyers demanding to release the detainees were handed out. In spite of the fact that the action was unauthorized, the police appeared only in 50 minutes after it had begun. The policemen "politely invited" the pickets to a police station. There they drew up reports, confiscated the flag and the posters. After this the detained were released.

On April 17 the administrative case against the retired Nina Yarmalinskaya who was detained on the 25 of March during "Freedom Day "action was considered. The policemen who were detaining the woman were called to court as witnesses. They told that the order was to detain the most active participants, and N. Yarmalinskaya was holding white-red-white flag. She wasn't denied her participation and explained that 25 of March is a great holiday for her that's why she came from Salihork on purpose to participate in the action. The judge t. Pawluchuk gave her official warning.

On April 26, anniversary of Chernobyl disaster, people gathered on the Freedom square at 17:00. The action began from "Mourning hour". The participants were holding candles. Artist Henadz Drazdow made a special candle place "Rehaforum" for this action. After the mourning service the "Rehaforum" was put on the waves of Svislach river. During the "mourning hour" people were singing patriotic songs, the violinist Ania Pawlava played Shubert works, famous singer-song-writer Piatro Rusaw was singing …

The action started at 18:10 from the Freedom Square, the column marched through Internatsianalnaya Street and Kupalawskaya Street, Skaryna Avenue and directed to the Academy of Science. More than 5 thousands people took part in the march. The police didn't interrupt movement of the demonstration. The officials who first denied the march from Freedom square to Independence Square had to agree on the compromise. Before the event there was the unofficial agreement with the police officials about the route of the march: Freedom Square – Academy of Science that is why no policemen followed the march. There was a brief meeting near the Academy of Science where the opposition leaders made their speeches.

The actions in all Belarusian cities took place within the Chernobyl march. In Mahilow the representatives of BPF organized a few actions. On April 26 the press conference dedicated to Chernobyl problems was conducted in the city. The representatives of the local mass media were present there. Henadz Hrushavy, the president of the charity foundation "For Chernobyl Children" also took part in it. The humanitarian help of the radiation center was distributed among the former liquidators (the policemen) and children of one of the city asylums. The head of the local BPF branch, Anatol Fiodaraw, states that humanitarian action is going to be continued. The pouring

rain didn’t prevent about 500 people to come to the mourning ceremony in the city and commemorate the victims of Chernobyl disaster. The police tried to detain Anatol Fiodaraw as the organizer of the action, though he didn’t appealed for it.

In Mazyr the executive committee banned the action dedicated to the tragedy. But the organizers didn’t cancel their intention to meet as it was planned at 18:00 on certain place. About 40 people gathered together near the Chernobyl church. The same amount of the police was already waiting for them. The participants were holding the candles and the youth were shouting: ”we want to live!” this time no one was detained but the organizers were called to police “for a talk” afterwards.

In Baranavichy several dozens of people gathered in the center of the city at 17:00 to commemorate the victims of the tragedy. They were holding the posters with the radiation signs, candles, white-red-white cross. They were as well distributing the materials dedicated to the anniversary of the disaster. For some time the police didn’t touch the participants but after 40 minutes they started threatening people with arrest and made them stop the mourning action and leave the place.

In Slonim the picket dedicated to the 15th anniversary started at 17:00. There were about 10 people with the materials of the issue. They were distributing special editions of “BPF News” and “Rabochy” newspapers.

In Brest the mourning services were conducted in catholic and union churches. After them the participants went to the main street of the city – Masheraw Ave. About 200 people were standing along the avenue in the coats with the radiation sign and with candles. Then they marched along the street to “Belarus” cinema. There were a lot of policemen but they didn’t interfere with the action.

In the center of Barysaw more than 150 people gathered to commemorate the victims of the disaster. They formed the chain and were holding the candles. The police detained and search the head of the local HRC “Viasna” branch Zmitser Barodka but set him free after a while. Before the action a 16 years old boy was detained in the builders college. He was brought to the local police department and then they took him to his home. His parents were absent there at the moment. The policemen conducted unsanctioned search in the flat, found 8 opposition stickers and several pin labels. They were threatening the boy and “advised” him not to go to opposition actions.

In Homel more then 200 participants came to the action in spite of hard rain. They were holding the candles and singing mourning songs.

In Salihorsk there was a picket, dedicated to the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. The police detained Anatol Loban and Siarhei Sulim (migrant from Chernobyl zone). The picket was not authorized. The detained got summons to court.

Some time ago May Day (May 1) was referred to as the international day of workers' solidarity. Now in Belarus it has another name: – Day of Work, Peace and Spring. Not only Communists, but also Social-democrats think of it as "their" day. Over the past two years there have been alternative demonstrations. This time, however, the authorities allowed only "mass be-ins" in Minsk parks. Horky Park, where representatives of free trade-unions, opposition Communists and members of BSDP gathered, became the central place of the celebration. There were almost no incidents. The police and "plain clothes", however, didn't rest. When Ihnat Martsinovich, a disabled old man, went to the park with home-made posters describing the living conditions the country's disabled, they twisted his arms and took the posters away. Opposition-led celebrations accompanied by small incidents also took place in other Belarusian cities.

In Homel about 10 000 were compelled to take part in the official May Day procession. However, only 1 500 reached the place of the meeting, Rebellion square. During the action Homel Central DBIA officers headed by the police captain Siarhei Yafimaw, tried to detain two workers holding the posters "Let's Make World Prices Meet Our Salaries!", "Let's Give Lukashenka $100 So That He Doesn't Prevent Us from Earning More!" The workers, Anatol Paplawny and Ivan Adamenka refused to yield to the police claims and sat down on the pavement in protest. Captain Yafimenka made a riot call. As a result of the police actions people started to gather around the fights, having forgotten about the tribune speakers. At the same time Anatol Paplawny stood up in front of the tribune of the veterans and the local authorities and raised a colored photo of Alexander Lukashenka with 1 ruble banknotes (less than one cent) stuck all around. The subheading had this: "Power - to me, soil - to directors of collective farms, poverty - to workers, serfdom - to peasants, doles - to budget workers, the right to work - for free, the right to run business - for money, who disagrees - go to jail. Vote for me, and you're sure to receive $100 by the end of the next century". When the officials spoke from their tribunes, the police captain tried to take the workers with the "wicked" posters away. A number of policemen and " invisible front plain-clothed workers" grabbed the poster, put Anatol Paplawny up and carried him away from the square. Ivan Smolikaw, Head of Central DBIA, arrived at the scene. When asked, what violations the workers had committed, he answered there were none, and the detainee would be released soon. However, in several minutes the police made an attempt to detain Ivan Adamenka as well. He resisted, they tore the poster out of his hands. In 10 minutes Anatol Paplawny

came back. The workers were allowed to leave the place of the incident, but without the posters and passports, that were taken away by the police. But, in spite of the statement that they had made no violations, they were fined 1 minimal salary each on May 4 when they come to the Central DBIA to get their passports.

20 representatives of Hrodna Youth Coalition of Democratic Organizations were detained in Hrodna during the May 1 action. The members of the coalition planned to go to the central square of the city with white-red-white flags. But near Lenin Square, where the action was supposed to take place, Vadzim Saranchukow, head of the local "Young Front", and Zmitser Ivanowski, a member of the BPF "Adradzhenne", were detained. The police confiscated the flags and brought the detained to Leninski district police department. During the action the following people were arrested: members of BPF "Adradzhenne" and BPF party Valery Kisel, Veranika Bystrytskaya, Andrei Mialeshka and Pavel Mazheika - Valantsin Askirka, "Pahonia" newspaper reporter; head of "Maladaya Hramada", Sviatlana Nekh, deputy head of "Maladaya Hramada", Andrei Stsiapura, member of "Young Front", Mishyk Airapetyan, Free Trade Union representative, Mikhail Patreba, head of the local "Narodnaya Hramada" branch. The journalists of local independent newspapers "Pahonia" and "Birzha Infarmatsyi" were detained as well. Uniformed and civilly-dressed policemen were detaining the participants. The "explanations" were made on each case (about 20 people). Valantsin Askirka, Head of "Maladaya Hramada", detained for the violation of Article 156 - disorderly conduct and disregard for police orders. Askirka himself commented the detention: "I believe that Hrodna police were following the order of the local city executive committee Pashkevich. The policemen were arresting everybody who had flags or flyers.

In Brest, at the May Day procession organized by the authorities Uladzimir Vialichkin and Kiryl Danko, who were distributing the special number of the newspaper "Rabochy" (devoted to the aftermath of the Chernobyl catastrophe) were detained. As the organizers of the informational campaign "Chernobyl Way" promised, it lasted for two weeks and was to end on May 1. It was decided to hand out the last 100 copies of the special "Rabochy" issue to the people who were ordered by the authorities to take part in the official demonstration. The paper caused great interest on the part of the people. Approximately at 10 a.m. the police detained the newspaper distributors, Uladzimir Vialichkin and Kiryl Danko. First, the detainees were taken to the Brest Regional Board of Internal Affairs, where the "discussion" of some newspaper articles took place. Then they were transferred to the Leninski DBIA to be kept till 11 a.m. but the officers did not draw up detention reports. Then the policemen released Vialichkin and Danko, returned them the newspaper copies.

Approximately at the same time the police tried to prevent members of the Belarusian Social-democratic Party "Narodnaya Hramada" and members of the Belarusian Free Trade-union from participating in the procession in a separate column under their own flags. On the eve of the holiday they, as well as the Brest branch of Belarusian Communist Party, were prohibited to carry out an independent procession and a meeting, referring to the fact that the only organization of the celebration was the Brest City Executive Committee (CEC). Besides, the opposition parties and the trade unions were warned that at this action only official symbols could be used.

On April 28 Public association “Legal Assistance to the public” conducted the picket in order to draw the attention of the public to the problem of famous people disappearance and political prisoners in Belarus. 30 people took part in the action.

On May 2 in Hrodna the trial over Valantsin Askirka, who had been detained on May 1 during the whole-city demonstration, began. The defendant was accused of the violation of Article No. 156 of the Code of Administrative Infringements (minor disorderly conduct). But the police-witnesses gave contradictory testimonies. And the four witnesses from Askirka’s side said that his actions were far from being hooligan-like – he was attaching the white-red-white flag onto the flagstick. As a result judge Dzemchanka postponed the trial to May 8. The persecution will search for new witnesses.

In May the action “We want to know the truth!” started in Belarus. Its organizer, United Civic Party, devotes it to the fate of the victims of political repression, who died or disappeared during Lukashenka’s rule. The aim of the action is to turn public attention to this issue. At 11.30 a.m. on May 7 four people from Barysaw came to Kastrychnitskaya square holding different posters. It is a well-known fact that two years ago on May 7 Yury Zakharanka disappeared. It was decided to picket the Minsk City Executive Committee to call public attention to this problem. The pickets held posters saying: ”Where is Zakharanka?” “Who is next?” Where are the people?” “Zakharanka? Ganchar? Zavadski? Krasowski?” “Hands off Opposition!” Zmitser Fiadorchanka, Ales Baradula, Siarhei Padzolka and the underage Tatsiana Yasiuk had hardly unpacked their posters when they were arrested by the policemen with A. Barsukow headed by the Chief of Central DBIA. On May 8 the case against Zmitser Fiadorchanka was considered at Minsk Central District Court. He was accused of having violated Article 167.1 of the Code of Administrative Infringements (participation in an unauthorized picket). Judge Vaitsiakhovich fined 20 minimal salaries. The case against Ales Baradula will be considered on May 14 at 10 a.m. Siarhei Padzolka and Tatsiana Yasiuk were freed at once.

On May 14 the trial against Ales Baradula took place at Minsk Central District Court. He was accused of violating Article No. 167.1 of the Code of Administrative Infringements of the Republic of Belarus for having taken part in the action devoted to the second anniversary of Yury Zakharanka, carried out in Barysaw on May 7. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich fined the defendant 20 minimal salaries.

On May 16 three people were detained in Minsk while picketing in front of the Ministry of Internal Affairs building against the disappearance of Belarusian public activists. The detained are Ludmila Bazhok, Lavon Malakhaw, and Lavon Sadowski. The pickets were holding portraits of Viktar Ganchar and Anatol Krasowski who had disappeared on September 16, 1999. Police Major Alexander Barsukow took the detainees to the Minsk Central Board of Internal Affairs.

On May 16 from 2 till 4 p.m. a picket was carried out at the place where Viktar Ganchar and Anatol Krasowski had disappeared on September 16, 1999.

It was members of the United Civic Party (Viktar Ganchar, as well, as Yury Zakharanka, had also been its member) who organized the picket. The picket participants were holding portraits of the disappeared. The police stood nearby and observed the picket A police officer came closer and noted down the names of the picketers.

At the time of the picket there the picketers noticed the policemen from the special police squad, known as the “seizure group”, who detain people at opposition actions, and later witness against them in court. They were going to a shop, situated near the place of the picket. They went out with a sausage and two bottles of vodka “Crystal-Lux”. They were insulting journalists with foul language and shouted to the picket: “You need to be shot!” After that they went to the building of a State Road Police Department.

On May 18 Minsk witnessed several actions of protest against the “Second All-Belarusian People’s Assembly” conducted by Lukashenka. The people in civil clothes made short work of the otherwise minded. In the morning about 30 activists of the Conservative-Christian Party carried out a peaceful action in Kastrychnitskaya Square opposite the Palace of Republic which hosted the then begun “All-Belarusian People’s Assembly”. Within several minutes some people in plain clothes, who showed no documents, assaulted the action participants. They seized and battered people, forced them into cars. Uladzimir Yukho, one of the Conservative-Christian Party leaders was taken to the 6th Clinical Hospital with a broken arm. In the morning several dozens of people were detained. The detained Zakharevich had a heart attack. At 3.40 p.m. the “Young Front” members carried out an action “Day of Museums”. They marched in red

pioneer ties along Lenin street and Francysk Skaryna Avenue. The aim of the action was to show the analogy between the Assembly's deputies and the museum of wax figures. Among the detained "pioneers" were Ales Nishchyts, Ales Pantsialei, Ales Tarasaw, Yahor Kunitsa, and Maxim Azaronak. According to Ales Pantsialei, one of the people in plain clothes, who were sitting in the car, had a gas balloon in his hand. The police took the detained into the hall of a building and kept them there till 7 p.m. At the same time the leader of the "Young Front" Pavel Seviarynets was detained. He was taken to the Savetski District Board of Internal Affairs. The policemen promised him to register him as a man with an undetermined place of residence (which means that they could do anything with him without being punished). In 4 hours and a half Seviarynets was released. He thinks it was done because of an order of the higher authorities. In the evening, after the end of the assembly, activists of the United Civic Party and other opposition movements made a chain along Francysk Skaryna Avenue. They were holding portraits of the disappeared people (Viktar Ganchar, Anatol Krasowski, Yury Zakharanka, and Zmitser Zavadski). People in plain clothes ringed all ways to Kastrychnitskaya Square. All of them were wearing T-shirts, had strong muscles and closely cropped haircuts. Valantsin Stefanovich and Vera Stramkowskaya, representatives of human rights organizations, repeatedly demanded that these people show their IDs. In response the plainclothes answered: "We are volunteers!" "We are hockey-players!» and made other cynic remarks. Most probably, all of them were workers of the presidential security. They forced the action participants into the underground. Here the journalist and the human rights activist Valery Shchukin was detained. The machos twisted his arms and got him into a car. At the underground entrance four were detained for holding the streamer: "We won't cede Belarus!» After most action participants went away, 2 "Zhyguli" cars came up to 5 activists. The police detained Vital Novikaw, Ales Straltsow and Siarhei Rabkevich. Ales Straltsow was severely beaten. Witnesses said that eight people in plain clothes were beating and kicking him into kidneys. Then the detainees were taken to the Leninski DBIA, where administrative violations reports were composed and they were made to sign documents obliging them to come to the Minsk City Police Department at 9 a.m. on Monday.

At 6 p.m. on May 18 the headquarters of the Belarusian Popular Front were under reinforced "security" of the police special forces. The siege lasted for about an hour. A group of policemen from the special police department came to the BPF headquarters office in Varvasheni Street, 8 in Minsk. The policemen checked personal belongings of everybody getting in or out of the headquarters. Besides, there were 6 cars with policemen in plain clothes nearby. There's no doubt that the blockade was connected with holding of Lukashenka's "2nd All-Belarusian Assembly" – the police appeared

immediately after the detention of five Young Front members in Kastrychnitskaya Square, where the Assembly was being carried out. It is obvious that the authorities undertook such actions as a means of scaring the democratic activists on the day of the Assembly.

On May 24 Siarhei Papkow, the vice-chair of Christian Conservative Party, was tried in Centralny Court of Minsk.

Here is his story: on the eve of May 18 (when the peaceful protest action against Lukashenka's All-Belarusian Assembly was supposed to take place) Siarhei Papkow was phoned by police lieutenant colonel Girel. He said the following: if Papkow (who was one of the action organizers) forgot about the action and did not lead the people to the square in front of the Palace of Republic, everything was going to be ok. If Papkow refused his suggestion – he would have to stand trial for participation in the action of April 26 (commemorating the Chernobyl anniversary). According to lawyer Tsurko, who was defending Papkow in court, the police tried to blackmail Papkow. "For the first time the materials of the administrative case openly show that the police politically persecutes people – they use threats to force people to refuse from their Constitutional right to peaceful assemblies"

During the trial the police witnesses confirmed that their reports had been drawn up not on April 26, but on May 15 –this was the order they had got. This fact was also confirmed by Alaksei Antsipaw and Henadz Hormash, the criminal law experts. Hormash even wrote "Papow" instead of "Papkow" in his report. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich announced her decision – a warning to Siarhei Papkow.

On May 24, in Hrodna, judge Dzmitry Dzemchanka announced his decision on the administrative case of Vadzim Saranchukow (article 167.1 part 2 of the Administrative Code). Vadzim Saranchukow was detained on May 1 on the Labor Day rally. The judge fined Vadzim 150 minimal salaries. At first, they tried to accuse Vadzim in organizing the action, but later the judge made a decision by the terms of article 167.1 part 2 of the Administrative Code (repeated participation in an unauthorized demonstration).

On June 4 the activists of UCP, Maladaya Hramada and Young Front held a picket under the slogan "We Want to Know Truth" near the Hrodna railway station. In their hands the youth were holding portraits of the well-known people who have disappeared: Yu. Zakharanka, Z. Zavadski, A. Krasowski, A. Klimaw, portraits of H. Karpenka and L. Maisenia.

The picket lasted for about 40 minutes. In 15 minutes after its beginning Head of the Hrodna Leninski District Board of Internal Affairs, colonel Vasilewski (dressed as a civilian)

started to demand that the unauthorized action be stopped. As a result ex-Chairman of Union of Belarusian Poles, Tadevush Havin, who was asking the police why they still hadn't found their ex-Minister, Yury Zakharanka, was detained.

On June 5 Yury Korban, Viktar Shlakhtsin and Kanstantsin Smolikaw, participants of the unauthorized picket in support of the politically imprisoned leaders of Belarusian opposition, were tried at Vitebsk Kastrychnitski District Court. We should remind that this action of protest took place on April 5, 2001, near the Amphitheater. This day the editor and businessman, Head of the public association "Center of Youth Initiatives "Contour" Yury Korban, the leader of the Vitebsk Branch of the Young Front Viktar Shlakhtsin and the executive director of "Contour" Kanstantsin Smolikaw contested the imprisonment of the well-known opposition leaders Vincuk Viacorka and Ales Bialatski, arrested in Minsk on March 25, for participation in the meeting, devoted to the celebration of the Freedom Day… In two months after the action its participants were summoned to court. Yu. Korban, V. Shlakhtsin and K. Smolikaw were warned. According to Yury Korban, the judge on the administrative cases Aksana Afanaseva had quite a good attitude towards the accused. He thinks that it is a general tendency in Belarus: the authorities decrease the pressure on the eve of the Presidential election. There's one more interesting detail: the Young Front stickers "The City Belongs to Us" were posted all around the court building. That's how the youth decided to support the defendants.

The police detained ex-Chairman of Union of Belarusian Poles Tadevush Havin on June 4, at the action "We Want to Know Truth". During the action he was asking policemen why they still hadn't found their ex-Minister, Yury Zakharanka. On June 5 T. Havin was sentenced to 3 days of administrative imprisonment. Immediately after trial he was taken to jail.

On June 15 five members of the United Civic Party, Anatol Labedzka, Andrei Maksimaw, Lavon Malakhaw, Ales Karniyenka and Uladzimir Radzivonchyk, have been detained in the town of Dziarzhynsk for an attempt to hold a picket within the framework of the action "We Want to Know Truth". Police detained the party members immediately after they unrolled their posters.

The UCP members, detained in the first half of the day in Dziarzhynsk, were taken to Dziarzhynsk Town Department of Internal Affairs and are still kept there. Two of the detainees, Uladzimir Radzivonchyk and Ales Karniyenka, are suspected of involvement in the action of terrorism, which had taken place at the town marked a week earlier (somebody exploded a grenade).

On June 23, the people commemorated 10, 000 of political prisoners (Belarusians, Lithuanians, Poles…), who had been shot 60 years ago (during the first days of the Great Patriotic War). Stalin Special Forces failed to "evacuate" to Siberia the so-called "enemies of the people" and shot innocent people dead near the Belarusian town of Cherven. The people laid the flowers and conducted a mourning meeting in the place of the tragedy. Belarusian authorities paid great attention to the present "enemies" as well: their mourning march was followed by a great number of policemen and people in plain clothes; every step and every face was video-taped. As if they might need it later…

On July 3 Alexander Lukashenka was roller-skiing down Francysk Skaryna avenue, participating in the sport contest, devoted to the 3rd of July (Day of the Republic). Siarhei Laptsew, ex-town councilor, dared to throw a tomato at Lukashenka. He was immediately arrested.

On July 4 Leninski court of Minsk sentenced Siarhei Laptsew, who dared to throw a tomato at Lukashenka during the July 3 sport contest, to 7 days of administrative arrest.. Laptsew was charged with violating article 156 of the Code of Administrative Offences. In court Siarhei Laptsew confirmed the political motives of his act – he "resumed the ancient tradition to throw tomatoes at bad actors". The judge preferred avoiding the word "tomato" at the trial, substituting it for an "object". Expert of the criminology center of Minsk city executive committee Vadzim Lahunowski, who had detained Laptsew, acted at the process as witness. Lahunowski stated that during the sport contest he was standing in the third row of the crowd and watched the contest participants. All of a sudden he felt some movement behind his back and there went the tomato. The thrower was immediately detained. Judge Dzmitry Zhdanok ruled the verdict – 7 days of arrest since the moment of detention. The case was heard in the presence of under age children of Laptsew, journalists and representatives of the Human Rights Center "Viasna". After the trial Siarhei Laptsew was convoyed to the special detention center on Akrestsina street.

On July 7 a picket devoted to the first anniversary of disappearance of journalist Z. Zavadski took place in Kastrychnitskaya Square of Minsk. Three people from Barysaw participated in the picket: Siarhei Padzolka and Zmitser Fiadorchanka were holding Zavadski's portraits, Alexander Baradula was holding a poster. In 40 minutes the police detained them and took to Minsk Central District Court.

On July 9 the participants of the picket (Kastrychnitskaya Square, Minsk) were tried. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich sentenced Alexander Baradula to 10 days of jail. She didn't

have time for the rest of participants, that's why Siarhei Padzolka received summons for July 16, and Zmitser Fiadorchanka – for July 11.

On July 11 Minsk Central Dist4rict Court considered the criminal case against Zmitser Fiadorchanka, participant of the picket, held on July 7 in Minsk Central Square. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich fined the accused 150 minimal salaries (app. $750).

On July 18 the police took Chairman of the Brest «Young Front» branch Siarhei Bakhun to Brest ward of temporary detention. Judge A. Miraniuk sentenced Bakhun to 10 days of administrative imprisonment for refusal to pay the fine of 200 minimal salaries for participation in an unauthorized picket on December 10, 2000, devoted to 52nd anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The judge ordered to take the accused to the ward right from the court hall.

On July 20 one of the participants of the action «Free Tibet!», Ales Padokshyn, was tried at Minsk Central District Court. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich found him guilty and fined 20 minimal salaries (more than $100). Other action participants: Valery Zhakaw and Yaraslaw Shastakow will be tried on July 23 and 25, respectively (judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich).

At 2 p.m. on July 23 at Minsk Central District Court judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich considered the case of the action participant Vasil Zhakaw (detained for participation in the action of protest during the visit of Jiang Zemin in Belarus) and warned him.

On July 24 policemen from Zhabinka DBIA detained Vasil Sveredchuk and Anatol Sasukevich and drew up reports of violation of the third part of Article No. 172 of the Code of Administrative Infringements of Republic of Belarus (distribution of printed production, issued with violations of the existing order and containing no issue data…» From 3 a.m. the policemen have kept them in the Zhabinka DBIA. After a KGB lieutenant major had worked with them, the case went over to the Chairman of the Area Court V.V. Novik. After negotiations with the DBIA workers and Procurator’s office, the judge directed the case materials to the area Procurator for consideration. The procurator is to decide whether to initiate a criminal on Article No. 370 of the Criminal Code (outrage on the State emblem) against Sveredchuk. The thing is that during the search the police found in Svieredchuk’s bag the state emblem that had disappeared from the signboard of the local notary office.

In the evening on July 26 in the center of Minsk an unauthorized action «Chain of People against Indifference» took place. Several hundred people lined in chain along Francysk Skaryna Avenue from Kastrychnitskaya square to Independence square, holding

portraits of the politicians who had disappeared or are imprisoned at present. It was a mass action with a view of reminding people about the disappearances and strange deaths of well-known public activists in Belarus for the last years. The action organizers said that they had handed out about 200 portraits of the regime victims. All in all, there were about 1 000 participants, including politicians, wives of the disappeared people, journalists and ordinary citizens. This time the police didn't disturb the action participants and even detained (but then almost immediately let go) the man who has torn Yury Zakharanka's portrait.

On July 27 Minsk police detained about 18 activists of the unregistered youth movement «Zubr» on July 27, at the celebration of the Independence Day. The celebration took place in Victory Square, where people put flowers to the monument. The policemen acted quite violently during the detentions. Then they took the detainees to Minsk Central and Partyzanski DBIAs, or to the police station of Victory Square. In Central DBIA there were about 10 detainees. The police released three of them without drawing up reports. The other seven were under age. The policemen drew up reports registering their violation of Article No. 167.1 of the Code of Administrative Violations and then released them. Policemen of Partyzanski DBIA also released the majority of their detainees without drawing up reports, though several received call-ups to court for July 30.

On July 27 the rock concert «Our Home Is Belarus» was carried out at Banhalor Square in Minsk. It lasted from 5 to 9 p.m. There was about 1 000 spectators. Several people were detained after the concert.

On July 30 judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich judged Pavel Vainowski and Zmitser Halavin at Minsk Central District Court on Article No. 167.1 of the Code of Administrative Violations of the Republic of Belarus. The police had detained both defendants on July 27, at the celebration of Independence Day in Minsk. Judge decided to warn the fellows.

On August 1 Salihorsk police detained 8 of 30 people who took part in the unauthorized protest "We Want to Know Truth". The protesters wore T-shirts featuring the portraits of Viktar Ganchar, Yury Zakharanka, and Zmitser Zavadski. The police appeared in 20 minutes after the beginning of the action. The policemen, headed by Lieutenant Colonel S. Kupchenia, detained Maxim Takmakow (under age), Ilona Plastsinina (under age), Mikhail Malochka, Ivan Zhukavets, Natalla Strushko, Vasil Tsizhyk, Vasil Nasanovich, Barys Karotkikh. In two hours the detainees were released. The other protesters, Larysa Nasanovich, Leanid Markhotka and Anatol Loban, call-ups to court, received summonses to court for August 2.

On August 14 in Mahilow an action "A Chain Of Concerned People" took place. At 6 p.m. over 50 activists of UCP, Young Front, ZUBR created a chain in a central street of the city. In a few minutes, about 200 people gathered the action participants. In another 15 minutes the riot police attacked the action. They detained 16 people, among the detained were members of Young Front, United Civic party and ZUBR. All the detained were released in 2-2.5 hour without any reports. The riot police took the orders of lieutenant colonel Yermakow and lieutenant colonel Alonushkin (the head of security department of the region executive committee).

Among the detained are:

1. Zmitser Bukataw

2. Valery Sivukha

3. Alaksei Hubko

4. Mikola Illin

5. Yawhen Drabiazka

6. Aleh Miatselitsa

7. Viktar Nizawtsaw.

On September 4 Alexander Lukashenka conducted a show meeting with his voters. The meeting took place in the Palace of Republic situated on Kastrychnitskaya Square. At the same time over 50 people came to the square in order to stand in a chain of concerned people holding the portraits of the disappeared politicians and journalists, in front of the buses of Lukashenka's supporters, who had been brought from all over Belarus. Among the picket participants were the UCP leader A. Labedzka, the deputy chair of the Belarusian Popular Front V. Siwchyk and Ludmila Karpenka, the wife of Henadz Karpenka,. Immediately some skinhead people in civil clothes surrounded the picket participants and stopped all the efforts of the pickets to come closer the Palace of the Republic. The people brought in buses to the meeting with Lukashenka had no obstacles to enter the Palace.

On September 6 the police detained more than 10 young participants of an action, organized by United Civic Party. The action took place not far from Lukashenka's residence. The young people were detained for the distribution of the special issue of “Belaruskaya Maladziozhnaya” (“Belarusian Youth Newspaper”) and taken to the Minsk City Police Department in Lenin Street.

On September 14 St. Symon and Alena's Church (at Independence Square) conducted a mass to commemorate the victims of the terror attacks in the USA. The Belarusian authorities, however, took a somewhat weird position. On September 13 Alexander Lukashenka had intended to visit the US Embassy to express his condolences and write down some lines into the special book. The Presidential security had come to the Embassy in advance and announced that a team of cameramen and photographers would accompany Lukashenka. The diplomats explained that it wasn't allowed to take pictures on the territory of the Embassy, since it was a territory with a special status. After this Lukashenka's cortege made a U-turn near the Embassy and went away. The US Ambassador Michael Cossack, who had visited the memorial mass near St. Spirit's Cathedral at 6.20, refused to comment this incident.

On September 17 in Minsk more than 200 people made a chain outside Lukashenka's residence. The action was devoted to the second anniversary of the disappearance of ex-vice-Premier Viktar Ganchar and the businessman Anatol Krasowski. The people held portraits of other politicians and public activists who disappeared or died in strange circumstances: Yury Zakharanka, Andrei Klimaw, Henadz Karpenka, Anatol Maisenia, journalist Zmitser Zavadski. Zinaida Ganchar, Iryna Krasowskaya, Ludmila Karpenka, Ganchar's former colleagues in the Supreme Soviet of the 13th Convocation Ludmila Hraznova, Valery Shchukin, Anatol Labedzka and Pavel Znavets took part in the action.

On September 18 judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich considered the administrative case against Uladzimir Ramanowski at Minsk Central District Court.

The case was initiated for the participation in the opposition action on Freedom Day, March 25, 2001. The judge found the accused guilty and fined him 150 minimal salaries (approximately $770). It was the last punishment for the participation in the events of March 25, 2000 in Minsk.

On October 4, 2001 in Baranavichy City Court the judge on administrative cases Zh. Kapachewskaya considered administrative cases against two participants of the action «Chain of Concerned People» that had taken place on September 17, 2001.

A policeman who had been L. Trukhanovich's pupil, detained him after the action. The police recognized the other detainee, A. Pikula Chairman of Baranavichy branch of BPF «Adradzhenne» on vide tape. L. Trukhanovich was warned. The consideration of A. Pikula's case was transferred to October 9 in connection with his solicitation for advocate.

On 8 October Barysaw city court heard the administrative cases of Zmitser Vishnewski and Katsiaryna Dziadko. Zmitser Vishnewski and Katsiaryna Dziadko are the participants of «The Chain of Concerned People» action, which took place in August (before the election day). The action had the slogan «We Want the Truth!» and was devoted to the destiny of the disappeared politicians and journalists. Judge Alaksei Bolataw warned Zmitser Vishnewski and Katsiaryna Dziadko. It's worth reminding that Anatol Askerka, who participated in the same event, was fined 150 minimal wages (about $750).

On 16 October, the trial over Chairman of Baranavichy Board of BPF «Adradzhenne» Ales Pikula took place at Baranavichy City Court. The administrative case against Pikula was initiated because of his participation in the action «Chain of Concerned People» on 17 September, 2001. On 16 October it was a third court hearing chaired by Judge Zhana Kapachewskaya. It is interesting that this time the role of police witnesses acted three police majors, while earlier there were ordinary policemen or sergeants. The judge warned the accused.

On December 6 Leninski district court of Hrodna considered the administrative case of Dzmitry Ivanowski, who had been detained On November 29 during the action, dedicated to the anniversary of ruining Vitaut Catholic church. The judge ruled to fine Dzmitry Ivanowski 150 minimal wages (about 1000 US dollars). Let us remind you that about 200 people participated in the action on November 29. The action participants gathered on the place, where the church was, and made a bough cross. Dzmitry Ivanowski told the people the story of the church. After that the people sang songs and prayed. The action lasted for 35 minutes.

On December 14 Uladzimir Malarchuk and Alaksei Siudaka were tried in Vileika city court (Minsk region). Judge Uladzimir Yemelyanovich sentenced both participant of the "Chain of Concerned People" to a fine of 20 minimal wages (about $200 each).

On December 18 and 19 Baranavichy city court heard the cases of the "Chain of Concerned People" participants. Let us remind you, that the action, dedicated to the Day of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights, took place on December 9. During the action the police detained Zubr members Y. Plotnikava, V. Drozd, and V. Krolikaw. On December 18, V. Drozd and V Krolikaw stated that they didn't agree with the charge with an unauthorized march; they had to sign the police report under pressure of the policeman, who had threatened them that in other case they would be left in jail until the trial. Yulia Plotnikava appealed for a barrister. As the result Judge Kapachewskaya decided to postpone the hearings to 2.30 p.m. on December 19. It was quite interesting

to see the reaction of the judge to the appeal of V. Krolikaw, who requested to admit a representative of the Human Rights Center "Viasna" to the court procedure. The judge said that only a barrister can represent a defendant in court, referring to the legislation. However, when members of Baranavichy "Viasna" S. Howsha and U. Howsha showed her the resolution #1. 5 of the plenary session of the Supreme Court from 25/03/2001, the judge agreed with the human rights activists. On December 19 the trial was resumed. The case attracted a lot of attention from local mass media and NGOs, which had probably affected the verdict: all 3 defendants received official warnings.

PERSECUTION OF MASS ACTION ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS

On January 4 Chyhunachny Court finished the consideration of administrative case against the participants of the unauthorized picket on December 10. The members of United Civic Party Alena Zaleskaya, Siarhei Vasenka, Dzmitry Muski and Anatol Zakharaw were charged with violation of articles 167 part 1 and part 2 of the Code of Administrative Offences. Judge Sviatlana Tufan made a decision to impose administrative fines on:

Alena Zaleskaya – 150 minimal wages

Siarhei Vasenka – 150 minimal wages

and warnings on Dzmitry Muski and Anatol Zakharaw.

On January 5 the Human Rights Day picket participants (Uladzimir Vialichkin, Yawhen Bialasin, Siarzhuk Bakhun, Aleh Dydyshka and Kiryl Danko) received summons to Leninski District Court. They are charged with violation of articles 167 part 1, 167 part 2, and 166 of the Code of Administrative Infringements. On the eve of the New Year Bialasin and Bakhun were visited by policemen, who suggested that they should sign the reports of administrative infringement, which had not been drawn up during the detention and 24 hours the guys spent in the jail of Leninski District Board of Internal Affairs. The trial over the participants of the action, dedicated to the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, will take place on January 9, 2001 in Leninski Court of Brest City.

On 9 January the Minsk City Court heard the complaint of Uladzimir Kishkurna and ruled that the 15 September 2000 administrative detention of Uladzimir Kishkurna carried out by the Centralny District DIA workers was illegal.

On January 9 Leninski Court of Brest was supposed to hear the case of the people, who had been detained during the celebration of the human rights day on December 10.

On December 10 Uladzimir Vialichkin, Yawhen Bialasin, Siarzhuk Bakhun, Aleh Dydyshka and Kiryl Danko had been detained and had spent a night in the jail. The police had drawn up the reports of the administrative infringement by the terms of article 167 part 1 (unauthorized picketing) and article 166 (insubordination to the legal order or demand of the police officer). Nadzeya Dudarava, the legal counselor of the OSCE ambassador, and many mass media reporters came to the trial. However, the trial was postponed to January 12.

On 12 January the Leninski District Court of Brest had a third hearing of the case of the citizens A. Dydyshka, K. Danko, U. Vialichkin, S. Bakhun, Ya. Bialasin. The courtroom was crowded. Since the witnesses called to court by the police did not appear, Judge A. Miraniuk postponed the consideration of the case till 15 January 2001. Journalists and Nadzeya Dudarava, legal counsel of the OSCE ambassador to Belarus, were in the courtroom.

On January 15, in Slutsk, the authorities distrained the property of Alexander Katlarow, military pensioner, member of Belarusian Helsinki Committee, and one of the organizers of the protest action on October 8, 2000 (All-Belarusian March of Freedom). Bailiffs Lubow Silachowa and Tamara Lapitskaya came to the 2-room apartment of Katlarow at 8.30 a.m. The district police officer asked 2 neighbors to be the witnesses. The property was distrained, and Katlarow was given an “Act of distraint and arrest of property”. It should be mentioned, that Katlarow had been fined 150 minimal salaries (540 thousand rubles, about $500).

On January 15 the trial over the human rights activists who had been detained on December 10, 2000 (The Day of Universal Declaration of Human Rights) was over. All of them were fined.

Yawhen Bialasin (the deputy chair of Brest branch of Belarusian Popular Front) – 200 minimal salaries (720 thousand rubles – about $600)

Siarhei Bakhun (the chair of the regional branch of “Young Front”) – 200 minimal salaries (720 thousand rubles – about $600)

Uladzimir Vialichkin (the chair of Brest branch of “Viasna”) – 20 minimal salaries (72 thousand rubles – about $60)

Kiryl Danko (member of “Young Front”) – 20 minimal salaries (72 thousand rubles – about $60)

Aleh Dydyshka (member of the Free Trade Union) – 20 minimal salaries (72 thousand rubles – about $60).

On January 22 the Barysaw Town Court Considered the case initiated against Ales Abramovich for his having organized an unauthorized procession of the striking workers of the Barysaw Glass Factory on November 21, 2000. Judge A. Bolataw refused Abramovich’s petition to summon his testifiers and fined him 150 minimal salaries (about $ 450) for the violation of Art. 167.1 of the Code of Administrative Infringements of the Republic of Belarus (organization of an unauthorized mass event)

At 12 a.m. on February 18 an unauthorized picket held at Freedom Square protested against the building of the High-octane Petrol Enterprise in the free economic zone of Vitebsk (former territory of the airport “Zhurzhava”). Policemen from the Vitebsk Kastrychnitski District Board of Internal Affairs asked the pickets Iryna Baidak, Siarhei Aksimovich and Eduard Bokhan to go with them to the Kastrychnitski DBIA. The police lieutenant-colonel who directed the operation of the pickets’ delivery to the DBIA prohibited HRC “Viasna” observers to take photos. He stated that there was a special order of the Vitebsk City Executive Committee that prohibited to take photos at unauthorized events. The Vitebsk branch of HRC “Viasna” appealed to the Vitebsk City Executive Committee asking to explain what order the police lieutenant-colonel had mentioned.

On March 5 the action dedicated to the problem of famous Belarusian people disappearance took place in Minsk. It took place near the “Pioneer” cinema. Several young people came there with the portraits of the missing people and three participants tried to raise big board with the slogan “Make the kidnappers answer!” At that moment Anton Tsialezhnikaw, Andrei Piatrow and Zmitser Abramovich were detained and brought to Leninski police department. They were given the calls to the court at 15:00 of March 6. The participants were detained by the officer of Lukashenka’s security service Viktar Martanovich. On the trial on March 6 they were sentenced according to the article 167.1 part 2 of the Administrative Code ”violation of the procedure of organizing and conducting of the pickets”. Andrei Piatrow and Zmitser Abramovich were sentenced to the fine of 20 minimal salaries. Anton Tsialezhnikaw – to the 15 day in prison as he was found guilty on this article for the second time during the year.

On March 6 the continuation of the action dedicated to the people disappearance took place. The participants came out to the Skaryna avenue with the portraits of the missing people. According to some estimation, there were about 150 people in the chain. The picket lasted for about half an hour. Tsimafei Dranchuk was detained after the action and took him to police station. The policemen checked his documents. His passport was rather worn out. He was put on record for “keeping the documents in the inappropriate state” and then let go. Dranchuk said to the policemen that his passport is "worn out" by policemen, who repeatedly detain him after peaceful actions of the opposition.

On March 15, Iryna Baidak, Eduard Bokhan and Palina Khlopkava organized a picket on Lenin Street in Vitebsk. The picketers had the posters with slogans: "Where is Viktar Ganchar?", "Where is Yury Zakharanka?", "Where is Anatol Krasowski?" in their hands. The picket lasted for half an hour and gradually turned into an action "Constitution Day", organized by local social democrats.

On March 25, the Day of Belarusian People's Republic, at 14.00 the representatives of political parties and social organizations gathered in Yubileinaya Square of Minsk to participate in the unsanctioned march. The number of participants reached 3000 people. They were holding white-red-white flags, posters, were singing Belarusian songs. Great concentration of police and special forces could be noticed in the area of the square. Uladzimir Naumaw the minister of the internal affairs supervised the event. The policemen were repeatedly ordering the people to disperse, reminding of the administrative and criminal punishment for violating of social order. The participants moved along Tankavaya and Dorsa streets to the Masheraw Avenue. The column tried to turn to Freedom Square but police and special forces blocked the way. The minister himself was standing in front of them and directing the participants to the monument. The people had to turn to the small area before the monument (dedicated to the victory against fascism), where the improvised rally began. Several people made speeches: Viachaslaw Siwchyk (deputy head of BPF “Adradzhenne”), Vincuk Viacorka (head of BPF “Adradzhenne”), Paval Seviarynets (Leader of “Young Front”), Alaksei Karol (social-democratic party “Narodnaya Hramada” fraction)

Additional police forces were brought to the scene by buses and cars. They lined in a square, heaving surround the demonstration from three sides and started to “clean” the area pushing people to the park. First detentions were made. People were taken out of the crowd and brought to the buses. The participants tried to save the detained and the fighting began. In half an hour the action was dispersed.

In Minsk the police detained Vincuk Viacorka, chairperson of the Belarusian Popular Front, Ales Bialatski, chairperson of the Human Rights Center "Viasna", Ludmila Hraznova, member of the Supreme Soviet of the 13th convocation, acting chairperson of Christian Conservative Party Yuras Belenki and others. People in civil clothes, who came on "Volga" and 4 "Zhyguli", detained about 10 people on Charviakova Street. Viachaslaw Alkhowski was brutally beaten when detained. Yawhenia Pikul (under age granddaughter of human rights activist Valery Shchukin) was released from police station and given back to her mother. In general, the police detained 15 people during and after the action.

In Hrodna Belarusian Popular Front initiated and organized the celebration of the Freedom Day. The action lasted for about 2.5 hours. Hrodna authorities permitted to conduct a rally in Leninski Komsomol Park. But the participants started to get together at 2 p.m. on Lenin Square, in the center of the city, as it had been planned before. The square was surrounded by special forces police. The policemen blocked the square and ordered the people to disperse, saying that the square had been mined. About 5

thousand people, who had come to the celebration, found themselves in a park across the road. It was impossible to go anywhere from that place. The action participants protested by sitting down on the ground. Gradually the policemen pushed the people to the bridge. The participants headed to Kalozha church, marching down the central streets of the city. The police followed very closely. The people gathered near Kalozha church for the rally. Siarhei Malchyk, chair of Hrodna BPF, Uladzimir Khilmanovich, chair of Hrodna Lew Sapeha Foundation, V. Sazonaw, chair of Hrodna Belarusian Social democratic Hramada and Sviatlana Nekh, vice-chair of "Maladaya Hramada" took the floor. Before the action the police detained and bet Hrodna newspaper “Birzha informatsyi” correspondent Dzmitry Yahoraw (underage). Before the meeting began he made several photos of the special buses designed to transport detained and arrested people. Several policemen attacked him, took the camera away and pushed in the bus. They didn’t pay any attention to his words that he was a journalist. In the bus the policemen ordered him to sit dawn on the floor and put his hand behind his head. Then they started to beat him with fists and feet to the head and chest. At the time specially trained dog was in the bus. The policemen pressed the young journalist psychologically and asked: “Would you like to meet the dog?” They were threatening him: “We will find you if you write about it in the paper.” When the journalist asked to inform his parents about the detention he was beaten again. Afterwards they gave back the broken camera, recorder and let him go.

In Vitebsk, the united opposition celebrated Freedom Day by a rally on Lenin Square. About 100 people (mostly members of the 3 parties: BSDH, BPF and UCP) gathered here at noon. Members of Christian Conservative Party conducted unauthorized pickets near Ratusha Square and on Voli Square.

In Brest the police detained 4 people. Yawhen Bialasin, Vital Lazarenkaw, Viktar Kuchynski distributed Freedom day cards on Savetskaya and Mayakowskaha Street. They were detained together with a passer-by who stopped for a few minutes (his last name is unknown).

In Maladechna a festive meeting was organized. The participants listened to reports from the history of Belarusian People's Republic. Organizers read the letter of congratulation by Ivonka Survilla, the present head of BPR government. The meeting ended with a concert of Andrei Melnikaw, famous singer-song writer, Maladechna poet Lavon Tsimokhin and choir, headed by Alaksei Fralow. The meeting participants brought flowers to the memorial sign "To Martyrs for Freedom and Independence of Belarus".

In Homel the police detain Anatol Paplawny, the head of Homel branch of Belarusian Popular Front, during the festive picket. The picketers were distributing leaflets. Anatol Paplawny was released after he signed the report of detention.

In Shklow festive football event took place. At the same time Belarusian Popular Front members spread leaflets, which congratulated the citizens to the Freedom Day.

In Shchuchyn the members of the local democratic organizations conducted a Freedom Day picket, which lasted for 2 hours. The picketers held the following slogans: "Long Live Democratic and Independent Belarus!", "Decent Life to Every Person!", "We will not let engage Belarus in foreign wars!". The picket participants distributed independent democratic press and leaflets. The picket drew much attention and interest, especially among young people. On the eve of the Freedom Day, graffiti appeared in the town: "Long Live Belarus!" and "God. Belarus. Freedom", and others.

In Babruisk about 100 people took part in a Freedom Day picket, which lasted for 2.5 hours. Activists handed out leaflets and "Rabochy" newspaper. The special services agents video-taped the participants. However, in spite of the fact, that the action was unauthorized, nobody was detained.

In Kletsk local activists conducted a festive meeting in the office of NGO "Center of Europe". The meeting was organized by local BPF.

On March 25 15 participants of the Freedom Day were detained in Minsk. Trials over the detained continued till the end of the month.

March 26 in Central district court.

Maxim Kukso (born in 1980) detained near the monument dedicated to the victory over fascism. Spent the night in custody. The judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich delayed the trial to 10 a.m. of March 27.

Dzmitry Chubarenka (20 years old) detained near the monument. Spent the night in custody in Akrestsina Street. The judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich considered the case. According to article 167/1 part 2 of the Administrative Code (repeated participation in unsanctioned action he was sentenced to 10 days in prison.

Elina Novik (born in 1975) – detained near the monument. Spent the night in custody in Akrestsina Street. The judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich considered the case according to the article 167/1 part 2. The trial is delayed to 14:00 on March 27

Viktar Bekesh (born in 1929) – detained near the monument. Released for the night. The judge Pawluchuk gave him a warning according to the article 167/1 part 1.

Dzmitry Kuzmitski (Lida city inhabitant) – detained near the monument. The judge Pawluchuk considered the article 167/1 part 1. The trial is delayed to 14:00 on March 28.

Nina Yarmalinskaya (retired) – detained near the monument. Released for the night. The trial is delayed

Iosif Burko – detained on Arlowskaya street with Vincuk Viacorka. The judge Pawluchuk considered the article

167/1. The trial is delayed to 12:00 on March 29.

Ales Bialatski (head Of HRC "Viasna") detained near Maria Magdalene church. Spent the night in custody in Akrestsina Street. The judge Pawluchuk considered the article 167/1 part 2 (organization of the unsanctioned action). The trial is delayed to 12:00 on April 2

Ludmila Hraznova (deputy of 13th Supreme council) – detained near the monument. Spent the night in custody in Akrestsina Street. The judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich considered the article 167/1 part 1. Sentenced to 20 minimal salaries fine.

Vincuk Viacorka (Head of BPF "Adradzhenne") detained on Arlowskaya Street. Released from the Central district police department after 21:00. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich considered the article 167/2 of the Administrative Code. The trial is delayed to 14:00 on March 28.

Mikhail Valochka (born in1934) – detained near the monument. Released after 20:00. The judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich considered the article 167/1 part 1 of the Administrative Code. The trial is delayed to 10:00 on March 28.

March 27 in Central district court of Minsk.

1. Elina Novik (born in 1975, dentist from Slutsk district) – detained near the monument. Spent the night in custody in Akrestsina Street. The judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich considered the case according to the article 167/1 part 2. And sentenced Elina to 20 minimal salaries fine (114000BRB, about 100$). In the court Elina Novik spoke only Belarusian. She explained the participation in the following way: "I consider this day as a saint day for Belarus. The Belarusian People Republic was announced this day. I wanted to celebrate this day by walking along the streets with the small white-red-white flag. Special forces solders took my flag away and broke the stick. I didn't want to give the

flag away. I was pushed to the bus." Two Special Forces solders who detained her were giving evidence in the court – Siarhei Kavalewski and Alexander Kowtun. They told that they had an order to notice the most active participants and detain them. According to their evidence E. Novik was detained in order to "prevent the conflict", as she was "grabbing the policemen by the uniform". It is necessary to say that photos of brutal detention of Elina were shown by different information agencies.

2.Maxim Kukso (born in 1980, student of medical college) detained near the monument dedicated to the victory over fascism. Spent the night in custody. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich sentenced Maxim to 20 minimal salaries fine (114000BRB, about 100$).

On March 27 chairperson of Belarusian Popular Front Vincuk Viacorka, his deputy Alaksei Kavalets, chair of United Civic Party Anatol Labedzka, deputy chair of Belarusian Social democratic Party (Narodnaya Hramada) Alaksei Karol, and a member of "Viasna" Barys Giunter conducted a press-conference, dedicated to events of March 25 in Minsk. Peaceful rally was violently dispersed, some action participants were beaten and detained. Anatol Labedzka stated: "Minister of Internal Affairs Naumaw played a small Chechnya war". The political leaders think, that pressure will grow till presidential election, but democratic forces will be doing everything possible in order to win.

March 28, Centralny district court.

1. Vincuk Viacorka (Chair of Belarusian Popular Front) – filed an appeal for the trial to be conducted in Belarusian, which is one of the official languages. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich refused to satisfy his request, but Viacorka insisted. The judge announced a break for 1 hour, and later postponed the trial to March 29.

2. Mikhail Valochka – judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich fined him 20 minimal wages (about $100) (article 167.1 part 1 of the Administrative Offences Code)

3. Dzmitry Kuzmitski – judge Pawluchuk announced a reprimand (article 167.1 part 1 of the Administrative Offences Code)

March 29, Centralny district court.

1. Iosif Burko – judge Pawluchuk announced a reprimand (article 167.1 part 1 of the Administrative Offences Code)

2. Vincuk Viacorka – judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich violated all norm of the procedure: she did not let attorney Tsurko to defend Viacorka, deprived Viacorka of the right to have

the final speech, and did not satisfy any of the appeals. The trial started at 10.00 and continued till 12.00. Then the judge announced a break till 4.00 p.m. At 5.30 p.m. the judge turned out all appeals as "not linked to the case" and immediately read out the verdict to arrest Viacorka for 15 days. Viacorka was immediately taken into custody under supervision of deputy head of Centralny DBIA Barsukow. Uladzimir Labkovich, a member of the legal group of Belarusian Popular Front, who was present in the court, declared: "The judge violated the legislation by not giving the floor to Viacorka's defender: she violated Viacorka's right to legal assistance, to use the services of a lawyer. The defender was left to play a secondary role. The judge demonstrated her incompetence and conscious disrespect to law". Vincuk Viacorka said before going to the Detention Center: "This does not have any limits – barefaced violation of the procedures and barefaced violation of my rights. All the breaks and delays demonstrate that the judge was receiving direct instructions from the top political officials of Belarus".

3. Dzmitry Kuzmitski – judge Pawluchuk announced a reprimand (article 167.1 part 1 of the Administrative Offences Code)

Belarusian Popular Front consider such actions of the regime as panic, full uncertainty in their future, which can be more and more seen with the election coming up.

On March 27 the leader of “Young Front” Paval Seviarynets was detained near the TV center on Makayonka Street. Paval Seviarynets was brought to the Pershamaiski district police department, than to the Central district police department. At 16:20 he was brought to the Central district court. The judge Pawluchuk considered the case according to the article 167/1 part 2 (organization or repeated participation in unsanctioned action). It was meant the action of March 25 – Freedom Day this time. Paval Seviarynets appealed for the defender. Because of this the trial was delayed to 12:00 on April 5.

On April 2, 2001 the Vitebsk Kastrychnitski District Court considered the case of the 18 February ecological picket participants, directed against building of a Russian Petrol Enterprise in the free economic zone. Judge Aksana Afanaseva found the pickets guilty of violation of order of the picket organization and holding and passed the following sentences: Iryna Baidak –warning; Eduard Baidak – warning; Siarhei Anisimovich – fine of 150 minimal salaries (app. $657). On April 3 Yury Belenki was summoned to court. He was accused of having taken part in one of the actions devoted to the celebration of the March 25 Freedom Day. The well-known Belarusian defense lawyer Vera Stramkowskaya defended him in the Minsk Central District Court. The policemen who were giving

evidence, gave false testimonies. For instance, Major Barsukow said he could "swear on the Bible" he had seen Belenki not far from Yubileinaya Square, near the obelisk "The heroic city of Minsk". But… Major Barsukow couldn't have seen Yu. Belenki there anyway, because the latter was at that time at Skaryna Square (the two mentioned places are quite far from each other). He was there as the Conservative-Christian Party planned to carry out its action at Independence Square. However, the police didn't admit them to the place.

On April 4 the trial over Yury Belenki was continued in Minsk Central District Court. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich sentenced him to 15 days of arrest in the detention center in Akrestsina Street.

On April 4 in Barysaw a picket in support of the Russian Independent TV-company NTV was carried out. Members of the Belarusian Social-democratic Party (BSDP) Alexander Abramovich, Alesia Yasiuk, Maryna Statkevich, Zmitser Fiadorchanka and Ales Baradula went out to the Barysaw Central square with the poster "Hands off NTV". In a quarter of an hour all the pickets were detained. The trial was appointed on 12 p.m. on April 5.

The Barysaw Town Court sentenced A. Abramovich to 10 days of imprisonment for violation of the second part of Article No. 167.1 (organization of an unauthorized picket). M. Statkevich, Z. Fiadorchanka and A. Baradula were warned. A. Yasiuk didn't come to the court as in the call-up there wasn't specialized the number of the room she was to come to and the capacity in which she was summoned.

On April 4 in Hrodna the trials over the BPF activists Vadzim Saranchukow (Head of the Hrodna branch of the Young Front) and Siarhei Malchyk (Chairman of the BPF branch), accused of organization of an unauthorized procession on March 25, were delayed. The cases of two more Hrodna citizens, Andrei Mialeshka and Alexander Mikhalchyk, are also pending trial.

On April 5 in Vitebsk youth organizations carried out a picket in support of the imprisoned opposition leaders. Viktar Shlakhtsin, Head of Vitebsk branch of the Young Front, Yury Korban, the executive secretary of the Public association Center of Youth Initiatives "Kontur", and Kastus Smolikaw, Head of the youth initiative "Educator", held posters with the following inscriptions: "We demand the release of the leaders of the Belarusian opposition Vincuk Viacorka and Ales Bialatski", "The court system is to be open and independent", "Down with the criminal authorities!". The flyers demanding to release the detainees were handed out. In spite of the fact that the action was

unauthorized, the police appeared only in 50 minutes after it had begun. The policemen “politely invited” the pickets to a police station. There they drew up reports, confiscated the flag and the posters. After this the detained were released.

On April 17 the administrative case against the retired Nina Yarmalinskaya who was detained on the 25 of March during “Freedom Day “action was considered. The policemen who were detaining the woman were called to court as witnesses. They told that the order was to detain the most active participants, and N. Yarmalinskaya was holding white-red-white flag. She wasn’t denied her participation and explained that 25 of March is a great holiday for her that’s why she came from Salihork on purpose to participate in the action. The judge t. Pawluchuk gave her official warning.

On April 26, anniversary of Chernobyl disaster, people gathered on the Freedom square at 17:00. The action began from “Mourning hour”. The participants were holding candles. Artist Henadz Drazdow made a special candle place “Rehaforum” for this action. After the mourning service the “Rehaforum” was put on the waves of Svislach river. During the “mourning hour” people were singing patriotic songs, the violinist Ania Pawlava played Shubert works, famous singer-song-writer Piatro Rusaw was singing …

The action started at 18:10 from the Freedom Square, the column marched through Internatsianalnaya Street and Kupalawskaya Street, Skaryna Avenue and directed to the Academy of Science. More than 5 thousands people took part in the march. The police didn’t interrupt movement of the demonstration. The officials who first denied the march from Freedom square to Independence Square had to agree on the compromise. Before the event there was the unofficial agreement with the police officials about the route of the march: Freedom Square – Academy of Science that is why no policemen followed the march. There was a brief meeting near the Academy of Science where the opposition leaders made their speeches.

The actions in all Belarusian cities took place within the Chernobyl march. In Mahilow the representatives of BPF organized a few actions. On April 26 the press conference dedicated to Chernobyl problems was conducted in the city. The representatives of the local mass media were present there. Henadz Hrushavy, the president of the charity foundation “For Chernobyl Children” also took part in it. The humanitarian help of the radiation center was distributed among the former liquidators (the policemen) and children of one of the city asylums. The head of the local BPF branch, Anatol Fiodaraw, states that humanitarian action is going to be continued. The pouring rain didn’t prevent about 500 people to come to the mourning ceremony in the city and

commemorate the victims of Chernobyl disaster. The police tried to detain Anatol Fiodaraw as the organizer of the action, though he didn't appealed for it.

In Mazyr the executive committee banned the action dedicated to the tragedy. But the organizers didn't cancel their intention to meet as it was planned at 18:00 on certain place. About 40 people gathered together near the Chernobyl church. The same amount of the police was already waiting for them. The participants were holding the candles and the youth were shouting: "we want to live!" this time no one was detained but the organizers were called to police "for a talk" afterwards.

In Baranavichy several dozens of people gathered in the center of the city at 17:00 to commemorate the victims of the tragedy. They were holding the posters with the radiation signs, candles, white-red-white cross. They were as well distributing the materials dedicated to the anniversary of the disaster. For some time the police didn't touch the participants but after 40 minutes they started threatening people with arrest and made them stop the mourning action and leave the place.

In Slonim the picket dedicated to the 15th anniversary started at 17:00. There were about 10 people with the materials of the issue. They were distributing special editions of "BPF News" and "Rabochy" newspapers.

In Brest the mourning services were conducted in catholic and union churches. After them the participants went to the main street of the city – Masheraw Ave. About 200 people were standing along the avenue in the coats with the radiation sign and with candles. Then they marched along the street to "Belarus" cinema. There were a lot of policemen but they didn't interfere with the action.

In the center of Barysaw more than 150 people gathered to commemorate the victims of the disaster. They formed the chain and were holding the candles. The police detained and search the head of the local HRC "Viasna" branch Zmitser Barodka but set him free after a while. Before the action a 16 years old boy was detained in the builders college. He was brought to the local police department and then they took him to his home. His parents were absent there at the moment. The policemen conducted unsanctioned search in the flat, found 8 opposition stickers and several pin labels. They were threatening the boy and "advised" him not to go to opposition actions.

In Homel more then 200 participants came to the action in spite of hard rain. They were holding the candles and singing mourning songs.

In Salihorsk there was a picket, dedicated to the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. The police detained Anatol Loban and Siarhei Sulim (migrant from Chernobyl zone). The picket was not authorized. The detained got summons to court.

Some time ago May Day (May 1) was referred to as the international day of workers' solidarity. Now in Belarus it has another name: – Day of Work, Peace and Spring. Not only Communists, but also Social-democrats think of it as "their" day. Over the past two years there have been alternative demonstrations. This time, however, the authorities allowed only "mass be-ins" in Minsk parks. Horky Park, where representatives of free trade-unions, opposition Communists and members of BSDP gathered, became the central place of the celebration. There were almost no incidents. The police and "plain clothes", however, didn't rest. When Ihnat Martsinovich, a disabled old man, went to the park with home-made posters describing the living conditions the country's disabled, they twisted his arms and took the posters away. Opposition-led celebrations accompanied by small incidents also took place in other Belarusian cities.

In Homel about 10 000 were compelled to take part in the official May Day procession. However, only 1 500 reached the place of the meeting, Rebellion square. During the action Homel Central DBIA officers headed by the police captain Siarhei Yafimaw, tried to detain two workers holding the posters "Let's Make World Prices Meet Our Salaries!", "Let's Give Lukashenka $100 So That He Doesn't Prevent Us from Earning More!" The workers, Anatol Paplawny and Ivan Adamenka refused to yield to the police claims and sat down on the pavement in protest. Captain Yafimenka made a riot call. As a result of the police actions people started to gather around the fights, having forgotten about the tribune speakers. At the same time Anatol Paplawny stood up in front of the tribune of the veterans and the local authorities and raised a colored photo of Alexander Lukashenka with 1 ruble banknotes (less than one cent) stuck all around. The subheading had this: "Power - to me, soil - to directors of collective farms, poverty - to workers, serfdom - to peasants, doles - to budget workers, the right to work - for free, the right to run business - for money, who disagrees - go to jail. Vote for me, and you're sure to receive $100 by the end of the next century". When the officials spoke from their tribunes, the police captain tried to take the workers with the "wicked" posters away. A number of policemen and " invisible front plain-clothed workers" grabbed the poster, put Anatol Paplawny up and carried him away from the square. Ivan Smolikaw, Head of Central DBIA, arrived at the scene. When asked, what violations the workers had committed, he answered there were none, and the detainee would be released soon. However, in several minutes the police made an attempt to detain Ivan Adamenka as well. He resisted, they tore the poster out of his hands. In 10 minutes Anatol Paplawny

came back. The workers were allowed to leave the place of the incident, but without the posters and passports, that were taken away by the police. But, in spite of the statement that they had made no violations, they were fined 1 minimal salary each on May 4 when they come to the Central DBIA to get their passports.

20 representatives of Hrodna Youth Coalition of Democratic Organizations were detained in Hrodna during the May 1 action. The members of the coalition planned to go to the central square of the city with white-red-white flags. But near Lenin Square, where the action was supposed to take place, Vadzim Saranchukow, head of the local "Young Front", and Zmitser Ivanowski, a member of the BPF "Adradzhenne", were detained. The police confiscated the flags and brought the detained to Leninski district police department. During the action the following people were arrested: members of BPF "Adradzhenne" and BPF party Valery Kisel, Veranika Bystrytskaya, Andrei Mialeshka and Pavel Mazheika - Valantsin Askirka, "Pahonia" newspaper reporter; head of "Maladaya Hramada", Sviatlana Nekh, deputy head of "Maladaya Hramada", Andrei Stsiapura, member of "Young Front", Mishyk Airapetyan, Free Trade Union representative, Mikhail Patreba, head of the local "Narodnaya Hramada" branch. The journalists of local independent newspapers "Pahonia" and "Birzha Infarmatsyi" were detained as well. Uniformed and civilly-dressed policemen were detaining the participants. The "explanations" were made on each case (about 20 people). Valantsin Askirka, Head of "Maladaya Hramada", detained for the violation of Article 156 - disorderly conduct and disregard for police orders. Askirka himself commented the detention: "I believe that Hrodna police were following the order of the local city executive committee Pashkevich. The policemen were arresting everybody who had flags or flyers.

In Brest, at the May Day procession organized by the authorities Uladzimir Vialichkin and Kiryl Danko, who were distributing the special number of the newspaper "Rabochy" (devoted to the aftermath of the Chernobyl catastrophe) were detained. As the organizers of the informational campaign "Chernobyl Way" promised, it lasted for two weeks and was to end on May 1. It was decided to hand out the last 100 copies of the special "Rabochy" issue to the people who were ordered by the authorities to take part in the official demonstration. The paper caused great interest on the part of the people. Approximately at 10 a.m. the police detained the newspaper distributors, Uladzimir Vialichkin and Kiryl Danko. First, the detainees were taken to the Brest Regional Board of Internal Affairs, where the "discussion" of some newspaper articles took place. Then they were transferred to the Leninski DBIA to be kept till 11 a.m. but the officers did not draw up detention reports. Then the policemen released Vialichkin and Danko, returned them the newspaper copies.

Approximately at the same time the police tried to prevent members of the Belarusian Social-democratic Party "Narodnaya Hramada" and members of the Belarusian Free Trade-union from participating in the procession in a separate column under their own flags. On the eve of the holiday they, as well as the Brest branch of Belarusian Communist Party, were prohibited to carry out an independent procession and a meeting, referring to the fact that the only organization of the celebration was the Brest City Executive Committee (CEC). Besides, the opposition parties and the trade unions were warned that at this action only official symbols could be used.

On April 28 Public association “Legal Assistance to the public” conducted the picket in order to draw the attention of the public to the problem of famous people disappearance and political prisoners in Belarus. 30 people took part in the action.

On May 2 in Hrodna the trial over Valantsin Askirka, who had been detained on May 1 during the whole-city demonstration, began. The defendant was accused of the violation of Article No. 156 of the Code of Administrative Infringements (minor disorderly conduct). But the police-witnesses gave contradictory testimonies. And the four witnesses from Askirka’s side said that his actions were far from being hooligan-like – he was attaching the white-red-white flag onto the flagstick. As a result judge Dzemchanka postponed the trial to May 8. The persecution will search for new witnesses.

In May the action “We want to know the truth!” started in Belarus. Its organizer, United Civic Party, devotes it to the fate of the victims of political repression, who died or disappeared during Lukashenka’s rule. The aim of the action is to turn public attention to this issue. At 11.30 a.m. on May 7 four people from Barysaw came to Kastrychnitskaya square holding different posters. It is a well-known fact that two years ago on May 7 Yury Zakharanka disappeared. It was decided to picket the Minsk City Executive Committee to call public attention to this problem. The pickets held posters saying: ”Where is Zakharanka?” “Who is next?” Where are the people?” “Zakharanka? Ganchar? Zavadski? Krasowski?” “Hands off Opposition!” Zmitser Fiadorchanka, Ales Baradula, Siarhei Padzolka and the underage Tatsiana Yasiuk had hardly unpacked their posters when they were arrested by the policemen with A. Barsukow headed by the Chief of Central DBIA. On May 8 the case against Zmitser Fiadorchanka was considered at Minsk Central District Court. He was accused of having violated Article 167.1 of the Code of Administrative Infringements (participation in an unauthorized picket). Judge Vaitsiakhovich fined 20 minimal salaries. The case against Ales Baradula will be considered on May 14 at 10 a.m. Siarhei Padzolka and Tatsiana Yasiuk were freed at once.

On May 14 the trial against Ales Baradula took place at Minsk Central District Court. He was accused of violating Article No. 167.1 of the Code of Administrative Infringements of the Republic of Belarus for having taken part in the action devoted to the second anniversary of Yury Zakharanka, carried out in Barysaw on May 7. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich fined the defendant 20 minimal salaries.

On May 16 three people were detained in Minsk while picketing in front of the Ministry of Internal Affairs building against the disappearance of Belarusian public activists. The detained are Ludmila Bazhok, Lavon Malakhaw, and Lavon Sadowski. The pickets were holding portraits of Viktar Ganchar and Anatol Krasowski who had disappeared on September 16, 1999. Police Major Alexander Barsukow took the detainees to the Minsk Central Board of Internal Affairs.

On May 16 from 2 till 4 p.m. a picket was carried out at the place where Viktar Ganchar and Anatol Krasowski had disappeared on September 16, 1999.

It was members of the United Civic Party (Viktar Ganchar, as well, as Yury Zakharanka, had also been its member) who organized the picket. The picket participants were holding portraits of the disappeared. The police stood nearby and observed the picket A police officer came closer and noted down the names of the picketers.

At the time of the picket there the picketers noticed the policemen from the special police squad, known as the “seizure group”, who detain people at opposition actions, and later witness against them in court. They were going to a shop, situated near the place of the picket. They went out with a sausage and two bottles of vodka “Crystal-Lux”. They were insulting journalists with foul language and shouted to the picket: “You need to be shot!” After that they went to the building of a State Road Police Department.

On May 18 Minsk witnessed several actions of protest against the “Second All-Belarusian People’s Assembly” conducted by Lukashenka. The people in civil clothes made short work of the otherwise minded. In the morning about 30 activists of the Conservative-Christian Party carried out a peaceful action in Kastrychnitskaya Square opposite the Palace of Republic which hosted the then begun “All-Belarusian People’s Assembly”. Within several minutes some people in plain clothes, who showed no documents, assaulted the action participants. They seized and battered people, forced them into cars. Uladzimir Yukho, one of the Conservative-Christian Party leaders was taken to the 6th Clinical Hospital with a broken arm. In the morning several dozens of people were detained. The detained Zakharevich had a heart attack. At 3.40 p.m. the “Young Front” members carried out an action “Day of Museums”. They marched in red

pioneer ties along Lenin street and Francysk Skaryna Avenue. The aim of the action was to show the analogy between the Assembly's deputies and the museum of wax figures. Among the detained "pioneers" were Ales Nishchyts, Ales Pantsialei, Ales Tarasaw, Yahor Kunitsa, and Maxim Azaronak. According to Ales Pantsialei, one of the people in plain clothes, who were sitting in the car, had a gas balloon in his hand. The police took the detained into the hall of a building and kept them there till 7 p.m. At the same time the leader of the "Young Front" Pavel Seviarynets was detained. He was taken to the Savetski District Board of Internal Affairs. The policemen promised him to register him as a man with an undetermined place of residence (which means that they could do anything with him without being punished). In 4 hours and a half Seviarynets was released. He thinks it was done because of an order of the higher authorities. In the evening, after the end of the assembly, activists of the United Civic Party and other opposition movements made a chain along Francysk Skaryna Avenue. They were holding portraits of the disappeared people (Viktar Ganchar, Anatol Krasowski, Yury Zakharanka, and Zmitser Zavadski). People in plain clothes ringed all ways to Kastrychnitskaya Square. All of them were wearing T-shirts, had strong muscles and closely cropped haircuts. Valantsin Stefanovich and Vera Stramkowskaya, representatives of human rights organizations, repeatedly demanded that these people show their IDs. In response the plainclothes answered: "We are volunteers!" "We are hockey-players!» and made other cynic remarks. Most probably, all of them were workers of the presidential security. They forced the action participants into the underground. Here the journalist and the human rights activist Valery Shchukin was detained. The machos twisted his arms and got him into a car. At the underground entrance four were detained for holding the streamer: "We won't cede Belarus!» After most action participants went away, 2 "Zhyguli" cars came up to 5 activists. The police detained Vital Novikaw, Ales Straltsow and Siarhei Rabkevich. Ales Straltsow was severely beaten. Witnesses said that eight people in plain clothes were beating and kicking him into kidneys. Then the detainees were taken to the Leninski DBIA, where administrative violations reports were composed and they were made to sign documents obliging them to come to the Minsk City Police Department at 9 a.m. on Monday.

At 6 p.m. on May 18 the headquarters of the Belarusian Popular Front were under reinforced "security" of the police special forces. The siege lasted for about an hour. A group of policemen from the special police department came to the BPF headquarters office in Varvasheni Street, 8 in Minsk. The policemen checked personal belongings of everybody getting in or out of the headquarters. Besides, there were 6 cars with policemen in plain clothes nearby. There's no doubt that the blockade was connected with holding of Lukashenka's "2nd All-Belarusian Assembly" – the police appeared

immediately after the detention of five Young Front members in Kastrychnitskaya Square, where the Assembly was being carried out. It is obvious that the authorities undertook such actions as a means of scaring the democratic activists on the day of the Assembly.

On May 24 Siarhei Papkow, the vice-chair of Christian Conservative Party, was tried in Centralny Court of Minsk.

Here is his story: on the eve of May 18 (when the peaceful protest action against Lukashenka's All-Belarusian Assembly was supposed to take place) Siarhei Papkow was phoned by police lieutenant colonel Girel. He said the following: if Papkow (who was one of the action organizers) forgot about the action and did not lead the people to the square in front of the Palace of Republic, everything was going to be ok. If Papkow refused his suggestion – he would have to stand trial for participation in the action of April 26 (commemorating the Chernobyl anniversary). According to lawyer Tsurko, who was defending Papkow in court, the police tried to blackmail Papkow. "For the first time the materials of the administrative case openly show that the police politically persecutes people – they use threats to force people to refuse from their Constitutional right to peaceful assemblies"

During the trial the police witnesses confirmed that their reports had been drawn up not on April 26, but on May 15 –this was the order they had got. This fact was also confirmed by Alaksei Antsipaw and Henadz Hormash, the criminal law experts. Hormash even wrote "Papow" instead of "Papkow" in his report. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich announced her decision – a warning to Siarhei Papkow.

On May 24, in Hrodna, judge Dzmitry Dzemchanka announced his decision on the administrative case of Vadzim Saranchukow (article 167.1 part 2 of the Administrative Code). Vadzim Saranchukow was detained on May 1 on the Labor Day rally. The judge fined Vadzim 150 minimal salaries. At first, they tried to accuse Vadzim in organizing the action, but later the judge made a decision by the terms of article 167.1 part 2 of the Administrative Code (repeated participation in an unauthorized demonstration).

On June 4 the activists of UCP, Maladaya Hramada and Young Front held a picket under the slogan "We Want to Know Truth" near the Hrodna railway station. In their hands the youth were holding portraits of the well-known people who have disappeared: Yu. Zakharanka, Z. Zavadski, A. Krasowski, A. Klimaw, portraits of H. Karpenka and L. Maisenia.

The picket lasted for about 40 minutes. In 15 minutes after its beginning Head of the Hrodna Leninski District Board of Internal Affairs, colonel Vasilewski (dressed as a civilian)

started to demand that the unauthorized action be stopped. As a result ex-Chairman of Union of Belarusian Poles, Tadevush Havin, who was asking the police why they still hadn't found their ex-Minister, Yury Zakharanka, was detained.

On June 5 Yury Korban, Viktar Shlakhtsin and Kanstantsin Smolikaw, participants of the unauthorized picket in support of the politically imprisoned leaders of Belarusian opposition, were tried at Vitebsk Kastrychnitski District Court. We should remind that this action of protest took place on April 5, 2001, near the Amphitheater. This day the editor and businessman, Head of the public association "Center of Youth Initiatives "Contour" Yury Korban, the leader of the Vitebsk Branch of the Young Front Viktar Shlakhtsin and the executive director of "Contour" Kanstantsin Smolikaw contested the imprisonment of the well-known opposition leaders Vincuk Viacorka and Ales Bialatski, arrested in Minsk on March 25, for participation in the meeting, devoted to the celebration of the Freedom Day… In two months after the action its participants were summoned to court. Yu. Korban, V. Shlakhtsin and K. Smolikaw were warned. According to Yury Korban, the judge on the administrative cases Aksana Afanaseva had quite a good attitude towards the accused. He thinks that it is a general tendency in Belarus: the authorities decrease the pressure on the eve of the Presidential election. There's one more interesting detail: the Young Front stickers "The City Belongs to Us" were posted all around the court building. That's how the youth decided to support the defendants.

The police detained ex-Chairman of Union of Belarusian Poles Tadevush Havin on June 4, at the action "We Want to Know Truth". During the action he was asking policemen why they still hadn't found their ex-Minister, Yury Zakharanka. On June 5 T. Havin was sentenced to 3 days of administrative imprisonment. Immediately after trial he was taken to jail.

On June 15 five members of the United Civic Party, Anatol Labedzka, Andrei Maksimaw, Lavon Malakhaw, Ales Karniyenka and Uladzimir Radzivonchyk, have been detained in the town of Dziarzhynsk for an attempt to hold a picket within the framework of the action "We Want to Know Truth". Police detained the party members immediately after they unrolled their posters.

The UCP members, detained in the first half of the day in Dziarzhynsk, were taken to Dziarzhynsk Town Department of Internal Affairs and are still kept there. Two of the detainees, Uladzimir Radzivonchyk and Ales Karniyenka, are suspected of involvement in the action of terrorism, which had taken place at the town marked a week earlier (somebody exploded a grenade).

On June 23, the people commemorated 10, 000 of political prisoners (Belarusians, Lithuanians, Poles…), who had been shot 60 years ago (during the first days of the Great Patriotic War). Stalin Special Forces failed to "evacuate" to Siberia the so-called "enemies of the people" and shot innocent people dead near the Belarusian town of Cherven. The people laid the flowers and conducted a mourning meeting in the place of the tragedy. Belarusian authorities paid great attention to the present "enemies" as well: their mourning march was followed by a great number of policemen and people in plain clothes; every step and every face was video-taped. As if they might need it later…

On July 3 Alexander Lukashenka was roller-skiing down Francysk Skaryna avenue, participating in the sport contest, devoted to the 3rd of July (Day of the Republic). Siarhei Laptsew, ex-town councilor, dared to throw a tomato at Lukashenka. He was immediately arrested.

On July 4 Leninski court of Minsk sentenced Siarhei Laptsew, who dared to throw a tomato at Lukashenka during the July 3 sport contest, to 7 days of administrative arrest.. Laptsew was charged with violating article 156 of the Code of Administrative Offences. In court Siarhei Laptsew confirmed the political motives of his act – he "resumed the ancient tradition to throw tomatoes at bad actors". The judge preferred avoiding the word "tomato" at the trial, substituting it for an "object". Expert of the criminology center of Minsk city executive committee Vadzim Lahunowski, who had detained Laptsew, acted at the process as witness. Lahunowski stated that during the sport contest he was standing in the third row of the crowd and watched the contest participants. All of a sudden he felt some movement behind his back and there went the tomato. The thrower was immediately detained. Judge Dzmitry Zhdanok ruled the verdict – 7 days of arrest since the moment of detention. The case was heard in the presence of under age children of Laptsew, journalists and representatives of the Human Rights Center "Viasna". After the trial Siarhei Laptsew was convoyed to the special detention center on Akrestsina street.

On July 7 a picket devoted to the first anniversary of disappearance of journalist Z. Zavadski took place in Kastrychnitskaya Square of Minsk. Three people from Barysaw participated in the picket: Siarhei Padzolka and Zmitser Fiadorchanka were holding Zavadski's portraits, Alexander Baradula was holding a poster. In 40 minutes the police detained them and took to Minsk Central District Court.

On July 9 the participants of the picket (Kastrychnitskaya Square, Minsk) were tried. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich sentenced Alexander Baradula to 10 days of jail. She didn't

have time for the rest of participants, that's why Siarhei Padzolka received summons for July 16, and Zmitser Fiadorchanka – for July 11.

On July 11 Minsk Central Dist4rict Court considered the criminal case against Zmitser Fiadorchanka, participant of the picket, held on July 7 in Minsk Central Square. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich fined the accused 150 minimal salaries (app. $750).

On July 18 the police took Chairman of the Brest «Young Front» branch Siarhei Bakhun to Brest ward of temporary detention. Judge A. Miraniuk sentenced Bakhun to 10 days of administrative imprisonment for refusal to pay the fine of 200 minimal salaries for participation in an unauthorized picket on December 10, 2000, devoted to 52nd anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The judge ordered to take the accused to the ward right from the court hall.

On July 20 one of the participants of the action «Free Tibet!», Ales Padokshyn, was tried at Minsk Central District Court. Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich found him guilty and fined 20 minimal salaries (more than $100). Other action participants: Valery Zhakaw and Yaraslaw Shastakow will be tried on July 23 and 25, respectively (judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich).

At 2 p.m. on July 23 at Minsk Central District Court judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich considered the case of the action participant Vasil Zhakaw (detained for participation in the action of protest during the visit of Jiang Zemin in Belarus) and warned him.

On July 24 policemen from Zhabinka DBIA detained Vasil Sveredchuk and Anatol Sasukevich and drew up reports of violation of the third part of Article No. 172 of the Code of Administrative Infringements of Republic of Belarus (distribution of printed production, issued with violations of the existing order and containing no issue data…» From 3 a.m. the policemen have kept them in the Zhabinka DBIA. After a KGB lieutenant major had worked with them, the case went over to the Chairman of the Area Court V.V. Novik. After negotiations with the DBIA workers and Procurator's office, the judge directed the case materials to the area Procurator for consideration. The procurator is to decide whether to initiate a criminal on Article No. 370 of the Criminal Code (outrage on the State emblem) against Sveredchuk. The thing is that during the search the police found in Svieredchuk's bag the state emblem that had disappeared from the signboard of the local notary office.

In the evening on July 26 in the center of Minsk an unauthorized action «Chain of People against Indifference» took place. Several hundred people lined in chain along Francysk Skaryna Avenue from Kastrychnitskaya square to Independence square, holding

portraits of the politicians who had disappeared or are imprisoned at present. It was a mass action with a view of reminding people about the disappearances and strange deaths of well-known public activists in Belarus for the last years. The action organizers said that they had handed out about 200 portraits of the regime victims. All in all, there were about 1 000 participants, including politicians, wives of the disappeared people, journalists and ordinary citizens. This time the police didn't disturb the action participants and even detained (but then almost immediately let go) the man who has torn Yury Zakharanka's portrait.

On July 27 Minsk police detained about 18 activists of the unregistered youth movement «Zubr» on July 27, at the celebration of the Independence Day. The celebration took place in Victory Square, where people put flowers to the monument. The policemen acted quite violently during the detentions. Then they took the detainees to Minsk Central and Partyzanski DBIAs, or to the police station of Victory Square. In Central DBIA there were about 10 detainees. The police released three of them without drawing up reports. The other seven were under age. The policemen drew up reports registering their violation of Article No. 167.1 of the Code of Administrative Violations and then released them. Policemen of Partyzanski DBIA also released the majority of their detainees without drawing up reports, though several received call-ups to court for July 30.

On July 27 the rock concert «Our Home Is Belarus» was carried out at Banhalor Square in Minsk. It lasted from 5 to 9 p.m. There was about 1 000 spectators. Several people were detained after the concert.

On July 30 judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich judged Pavel Vainowski and Zmitser Halavin at Minsk Central District Court on Article No. 167.1 of the Code of Administrative Violations of the Republic of Belarus. The police had detained both defendants on July 27, at the celebration of Independence Day in Minsk. Judge decided to warn the fellows.

On August 1 Salihorsk police detained 8 of 30 people who took part in the unauthorized protest "We Want to Know Truth". The protesters wore T-shirts featuring the portraits of Viktar Ganchar, Yury Zakharanka, and Zmitser Zavadski. The police appeared in 20 minutes after the beginning of the action. The policemen, headed by Lieutenant Colonel S. Kupchenia, detained Maxim Takmakow (under age), Ilona Plastsinina (under age), Mikhail Malochka, Ivan Zhukavets, Natalla Strushko, Vasil Tsizhyk, Vasil Nasanovich, Barys Karotkikh. In two hours the detainees were released. The other protesters, Larysa Nasanovich, Leanid Markhotka and Anatol Loban, call-ups to court, received summonses to court for August 2.

On August 14 in Mahilow an action "A Chain Of Concerned People" took place. At 6 p.m. over 50 activists of UCP, Young Front, ZUBR created a chain in a central street of the city. In a few minutes, about 200 people gathered the action participants. In another 15 minutes the riot police attacked the action. They detained 16 people, among the detained were members of Young Front, United Civic party and ZUBR. All the detained were released in 2-2.5 hour without any reports. The riot police took the orders of lieutenant colonel Yermakow and lieutenant colonel Alonushkin (the head of security department of the region executive committee).

Among the detained are:

1. Zmitser Bukataw
2. Valery Sivukha
3. Alaksei Hubko
4. Mikola Illin
5. Yawhen Drabiazka
6. Aleh Miatselitsa
7. Viktar Nizawtsaw.

On September 4 Alexander Lukashenka conducted a show meeting with his voters. The meeting took place in the Palace of Republic situated on Kastrychnitskaya Square. At the same time over 50 people came to the square in order to stand in a chain of concerned people holding the portraits of the disappeared politicians and journalists, in front of the buses of Lukashenka's supporters, who had been brought from all over Belarus. Among the picket participants were the UCP leader A. Labedzka, the deputy chair of the Belarusian Popular Front V. Siwchyk and Ludmila Karpenka, the wife of Henadz Karpenka,. Immediately some skinhead people in civil clothes surrounded the picket participants and stopped all the efforts of the pickets to come closer the Palace of the Republic. The people brought in buses to the meeting with Lukashenka had no obstacles to enter the Palace.

On September 6 the police detained more than 10 young participants of an action, organized by United Civic Party. The action took place not far from Lukashenka's residence. The young people were detained for the distribution of the special issue of “Belaruskaya Maladziozhnaya” (“Belarusian Youth Newspaper”) and taken to the Minsk City Police Department in Lenin Street.

On September 14 St. Symon and Alena's Church (at Independence Square) conducted a mass to commemorate the victims of the terror attacks in the USA. The Belarusian authorities, however, took a somewhat weird position. On September 13 Alexander Lukashenka had intended to visit the US Embassy to express his condolences and write down some lines into the special book. The Presidential security had come to the Embassy in advance and announced that a team of cameramen and photographers would accompany Lukashenka. The diplomats explained that it wasn't allowed to take pictures on the territory of the Embassy, since it was a territory with a special status. After this Lukashenka's cortege made a U-turn near the Embassy and went away. The US Ambassador Michael Cossack, who had visited the memorial mass near St. Spirit's Cathedral at 6.20, refused to comment this incident.

On September 17 in Minsk more than 200 people made a chain outside Lukashenka's residence. The action was devoted to the second anniversary of the disappearance of ex-vice-Premier Viktar Ganchar and the businessman Anatol Krasowski. The people held portraits of other politicians and public activists who disappeared or died in strange circumstances: Yury Zakharanka, Andrei Klimaw, Henadz Karpenka, Anatol Maisenia, journalist Zmitser Zavadski. Zinaida Ganchar, Iryna Krasowskaya, Ludmila Karpenka, Ganchar's former colleagues in the Supreme Soviet of the 13th Convocation Ludmila Hraznova, Valery Shchukin, Anatol Labedzka and Pavel Znavets took part in the action.

On September 18 judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich considered the administrative case against Uladzimir Ramanowski at Minsk Central District Court.

The case was initiated for the participation in the opposition action on Freedom Day, March 25, 2001. The judge found the accused guilty and fined him 150 minimal salaries (approximately $770). It was the last punishment for the participation in the events of March 25, 2000 in Minsk.

On October 4, 2001 in Baranavichy City Court the judge on administrative cases Zh. Kapachewskaya considered administrative cases against two participants of the action «Chain of Concerned People» that had taken place on September 17, 2001.

A policeman who had been L. Trukhanovich's pupil, detained him after the action. The police recognized the other detainee, A. Pikula Chairman of Baranavichy branch of BPF «Adradzhenne» on vide tape. L. Trukhanovich was warned. The consideration of A. Pikula's case was transferred to October 9 in connection with his solicitation for advocate.

On 8 October Barysaw city court heard the administrative cases of Zmitser Vishnewski and Katsiaryna Dziadko. Zmitser Vishnewski and Katsiaryna Dziadko are the participants of «The Chain of Concerned People» action, which took place in August (before the election day). The action had the slogan «We Want the Truth!» and was devoted to the destiny of the disappeared politicians and journalists. Judge Alaksei Bolataw warned Zmitser Vishnewski and Katsiaryna Dziadko. It's worth reminding that Anatol Askerka, who participated in the same event, was fined 150 minimal wages (about $750).

On 16 October, the trial over Chairman of Baranavichy Board of BPF «Adradzhenne» Ales Pikula took place at Baranavichy City Court. The administrative case against Pikula was initiated because of his participation in the action «Chain of Concerned People» on 17 September, 2001. On 16 October it was a third court hearing chaired by Judge Zhana Kapachewskaya. It is interesting that this time the role of police witnesses acted three police majors, while earlier there were ordinary policemen or sergeants. The judge warned the accused.

On December 6 Leninski district court of Hrodna considered the administrative case of Dzmitry Ivanowski, who had been detained On November 29 during the action, dedicated to the anniversary of ruining Vitaut Catholic church. The judge ruled to fine Dzmitry Ivanowski 150 minimal wages (about 1000 US dollars). Let us remind you that about 200 people participated in the action on November 29. The action participants gathered on the place, where the church was, and made a bough cross. Dzmitry Ivanowski told the people the story of the church. After that the people sang songs and prayed. The action lasted for 35 minutes.

On December 14 Uladzimir Malarchuk and Alaksei Siudaka were tried in Vileika city court (Minsk region). Judge Uladzimir Yemelyanovich sentenced both participant of the "Chain of Concerned People" to a fine of 20 minimal wages (about $200 each).

On December 18 and 19 Baranavichy city court heard the cases of the "Chain of Concerned People" participants. Let us remind you, that the action, dedicated to the Day of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights, took place on December 9. During the action the police detained Zubr members Y. Plotnikava, V. Drozd, and V. Krolikaw. On December 18, V. Drozd and V Krolikaw stated that they didn't agree with the charge with an unauthorized march; they had to sign the police report under pressure of the policeman, who had threatened them that in other case they would be left in jail until the trial. Yulia Plotnikava appealed for a barrister. As the result Judge Kapachewskaya decided to postpone the hearings to 2.30 p.m. on December 19. It was quite interesting

to see the reaction of the judge to the appeal of V. Krolikaw, who requested to admit a representative of the Human Rights Center "Viasna" to the court procedure. The judge said that only a barrister can represent a defendant in court, referring to the legislation. However, when members of Baranavichy "Viasna" S. Howsha and U. Howsha showed her the resolution #1. 5 of the plenary session of the Supreme Court from 25/03/2001, the judge agreed with the human rights activists. On December 19 the trial was resumed. The case attracted a lot of attention from local mass media and NGOs, which had probably affected the verdict: all 3 defendants received official warnings.

CRIMINAL PERSECUTION OF POLITICAL AND PUBLIC LEADERS, AS WELL AS OF MASS ACTION PARTICIPANTS

On January 8 Natalla Rawkowa turned to the Human Rights Center "Viasna", asking for help in exercising her legal right to defend her husband, who has already spent 17 months in custody on criminal charges of bribe-taking. In her appeal to the Human Rights Center "Viasna" Natalla Rawkowa writes: “In May 2000 I addressed the investigator with a letter, asking to let me in the trial as a defense attorney, in compliance with article 49 part 3 of the Criminal Code. I was refused on the ground of having no law education and, therefore, no right to be an attorney. I appealed to the Prosecutor General then, and received a reply that our correspondence was over, in compliance with the Law “About the Appeals of Citizens”. In compliance with article 62 of the Constitution I lodged a complaint with the court that the investigator had violated my rights. 20.11.2000 Centralny District Court of Homel City decided to reject the case hearing”. The rejection was explained by the fact, that Natalla Rawkowa cannot be the defense attorney of her husband, because she already participated in the case as a witness. On her turn, Natalla Rawkowa claims not to give any evidence. Moreover, “20.06.2000 I wrote a refusal to testify, I have a right to it in compliance with article 289 part 4 of the Criminal Code, as a close relative”. In compliance with article 62 of the Constitution Natalla Rawkowa has the right to defend her husband in court. Yulia Chygir (the wife of ex-prime-minister Mikhail Chygir) and Sviatlana Ulasava (the daughter of Vasil Lavonaw – ex- minister of agriculture) exercised their right to defend their relatives in court. Uladzimir Rawkow is now in the hospital of the Penalty Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. His health has become worse as a result of usage of psychotropic substances during the interrogations and a hunger strike, on which U. Rawkow went in the detention center. Being in the hospital, U. Rawkow did not have an opportunity to become familiar with all materials of the case after the pretrial investigation was over. As a result, the case was submitted to court, in violation of article 200 of the Criminal Code.

On January 10 ended the 18 month long term of detention of Zmitser Abadowski. Zmitser (the son of the famous human rights activist Siarhei Abadowski) had been detained on July 10, 1999. According to article 127 (part 2, 4 and 6) of the Criminal Code, which is valid since January 1, 2001, further detention during pretrial investigation is not permitted, the defendant must be immediately released from detention center, and other preventive measures should be chosen. Let us remind that after the first trial, the case of Zmitser Abadowski was submitted for the additional investigation. At the same time, the newly adopted Criminal Code does not foresee “subtracting” the time the case was in trial from the general detention time. The whole provision of “submitting the case

for additional investigation" is missing in the new Criminal Code. On January 9 Zmitser's attorney, his father Siarhei Abadowski, appealed to I. Haradkow, the investigator of Mahilow region Ministry of Internal Affairs, asking to release Zmitser no later than January 10. The investigator decided to make a decision on the appeal in a 3-day period. That means, that in this case he violated the legal term of detention of the accused. Attorney Siarhei Abadowski submitted an appeal to Mahilow region Prosecutor, where he stated his legal demands to release his son.

On January 16 at 9.30 a.m. members of the Belarusian Social-democratic Party "Narodnaya Hramada" and "Maladaya Hramada" Ales Abramovich, Alesia Yasiuk, Nadzeya Hrachukha, Zmitser Kuzniatsow and Mikhail Kuzniatsow picketed at the central square of Barysaw demanding an urgent examination of Alexander Lukashenka's mental health. Zmitser Barodka, a member of the PA HRC "Viasna" branch in Barysaw, was present at the picket in the capacity of an observer. The unauthorized picket lasted for almost half an hour, and then the police detained all its participants and drew up reports registering their alleged violation of the second part of Art. 167.1 (violation of the order of organization and holding mass events). Zmitser Barodka was also detained. He explained that he attended the picket as an observer and showed his ID. After that he was released. The materials on the minors Zmitser and Mikhail Kuzniatsow were sent to the juvenile delinquents committee. The teenagers had to wait till their parents came to the police station to take them home. Ales Abramovich, Alesia Yasiuk and Nadzeya Hrachukha were taken to court. When Judge Alaksei Bolbataw received the case materials he sent them to the Procurator's office for additional investigation, because he considered the actions of the pickets to be violation of Art. 368 of the new Criminal Code ("Insult to the President of the Republic of Belarus"). According to Article No. 368 for a public insult to the Belarusian President one can be fined, sentenced to six months of arrest or up to two years of correctional labor or imprisonment. The pickets were released and warned that they would soon receive summonses.

It's the first case of initiating a criminal case for an "insult to the President of the Republic of Belarus". A penalty for such actions was introduced only a fortnight ago.

On January 19 the well-known human rights activist and journalist Valery Shchukin left hospital. He phoned the HRC "Viasna" and said: "I'm still free!" V. Shchukin was taken to hospital on January 16 after an attempt to get to the press conference of V. Naumaw, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus. Shchukin was beaten by the guards and was seriously hurt by a piece of glass from the broken entrance door. The MIA authorities used Art. 299.1 of the new Criminal Code (disorderly conduct) to initiate a

criminal case against Shchukin. According to the Article one can be sentenced to up to two years of imprisonment or 240 hours of correctional labor.

On February 5 Uladzimir Kudzinaw (the member of the Supreme Soviet of the 13th convocation) was released from Minsk prison 15/1. Uladzimir Kudzinaw was in prison since February 1997. His case was reviewed by the terms of article 431 part 2 of the newly adopted Criminal Code. The first words Kudzinaw said after he had been released were: “I am much obliged to my family, friends and all people of Belarus who supported me during these 4 years!”

On February 7 Alesia Yasiuk and Ales Abramovich were summoned the Barysaw procurator’s office. They are suspected of violating Article 368 of the new Criminal Code; “Insult to the President of the Republic of Belarus”. By the terms of this article, a public insult to the President of the Republic of Belarus is punished by either a fine or correctional labor (up to 2 years), or arrest (up to 6 months), or freedom restriction (up to 2 years), or imprisonment (up to 2 years).

A professional lawyer will accompany the pickets. This is not the first time Alesia Yasiuk and Ales Abramovich will visit the Procurator’s office. They went there on February 5, but that time they were “witnesses”. Alesia Yasiuk was forced to come to the Procurator’s office – several policemen brought her there from her work. Ales Abramovich came of his own accord. The pickets refused to give evidence or sign anything expressing their “civil disobedience”.

On February 8 the Presidium of the Executive Bureau of Belarusian Social Democratic Party (Narodnaya Hramada) made a statement where it demands immediate discontinuance of the legal proceedings against Barysaw Social Democrats – Alexander Abramovich, Alesia Yasiuk, Nadzeya Hrachukha, and under age brothers Kuzniatsow. The Presidium of the Executive Bureau of Belarusian Social Democratic Party (Narodnaya Hramada) called "the attention of the public, that the investigation of the criminal case against our colleagues is impossible without independent expertise of the mental health of Alexander Lukashenka”.

On February 8 the HRC “Viasna” organized the conference of a former political prisoner Uladzimir Kudzinaw. U. Kudzinaw told the journalists about 4 years he had spent in prison, about the living condition and the atmosphere of the Belarusian prisons.

On February 9 the state of health of Uladzimir Rawkow, the former deputy rector of the Homel Medical Institute, deteriorated. Rawkow is waiting for the trial in Homel prison the living conditions of which harm his health greatly. His wife – Natalla Rawkowa

informed the HRC “Viasna” about the deterioration: “His blood pressure increased, now it’s 190—140. I called to the supervising procurator and told him that the living conditions don’t correspond to the norm. He answered – “What did you expect? Your husband is a criminal!” I had to remind him about the innocence presumption. The guilt of my husband was not proved – the trial begins on February 13.” The HRC “Viasna” draws the attention to the problem of people who are waiting for the trial. Their guilt wasn’t proved but they are kept in horrible conditions, they have no possibilities to get the necessary medical help. For example the cell where Uladzimir Rawkow is kept is crammed, there is less than 1 square meter for a person in it. This is the way to press the prisoners physically and morally in order to make them make “necessary confessions”.

On February 19 in Homel there started consideration of the case initiated against a group of lecturers at Homel State Medical University. The defendants were accused of having received a bribe. The trial was to have begun on February 13, but was delayed because one of the defendants was absent. The trial is conducted in the building of the Homel Regional Court. Uladzimir Rawkow is the only defendant sitting behind bars in the court hall. He has been kept in custody since July 1999.

On February 20 Alexander Chygir (the younger son of Mikhail Chygir, ex-Premier of the Republic of Belarus) was accused of having violated the forth part of Article No. 205 of the Criminal Code – grand larceny repeatedly committed by a group of people. Alexander's mother, Yulia Chygir, is sure that till the Presidential election (where Mikhail is standing) the authorities will hold her son in custody and keep accusing him through all the State Mass Media to pressurize his father.

On February 21 the trial over Bandazhewski, Rawkow and other 8 people from the staff of Homel Medical Institute continued. Rawkow's lawyer filed an appeal that Rawkow's wife, Natalla Rawkowa should be one of the first to be interrogated, so she could enter the courtroom and be present at the rest of the trial. The judge turned down the appeal. Natalla Rawkowa says: "a military guy is standing at the entrance to the courtroom, he has an order not to let me in. They turned down all our appeals. There is only one small "gift" – the charges of carrying cold weapon (hunting knife) by the terms of article 296 of the Criminal Code are dropped. They decided to give it back to the owners. But I don't know who they are going to give it to – to the people, who put it stealthily?". It's worth to comment the situation. The charge by the terms of article 296 is dropped, because the newly adopted Criminal Code provides for administrative prejudice. That means: one can be charged with illegal carrying of cold weapon only in case, he repeated the offence during one year, after he had borne administrative

responsibility for the similar offence. The old Criminal Code provided for immediate criminal prosecution. Article 296 was traditionally used, when there was a need to arrest a certain person.

On February 22 consideration of the case against V. Shchukin and M. Statkevich was postponed by one month on the petition of the State procurator. The trial was stopped for one month in connection with the lack of evidence of the crimes M. Statkevich and V. Shchukin had ostensibly committed (organization and participation in the events that flagrantly disrupt public order and tranquility) during the March of Freedom on October 17, 1999.According to Article No. 302 of the new Criminal Code of Practice “if during the case consideration it is found that there’s lack of crime evidence for passing a verdict, the court stops the case consideration on the petition of the parties and proposes to the State procurator to organize additional investigative and process activities”. If the investigation doesn’t present any new evidence, the court will have to close the case, because according to the new Criminal Code of Practice cases can’t be ordered to be additionally investigated.

On February 23 Dzmitry Ivanishka, Rawkow's lawyer, filed an appeal that forensic medical expert examination of the defendant be made. The chief doctor of Homel region cardio-clinic replied to Ivanishka's inquiry: "Rawkow needs hospital treatment, starting on February 22". According to the lawyer, during the trial Rawkow is not provided with food all day long, but he still has to take medicine. Besides that, Rawkow is provided with medical help every court session, because of the bad health condition.

On February 26 the trial over Rawkow continued. Natalla Rawkowa, helped by Valery Shchukin, human rights activist and journalist, managed to enter the courtroom. This event delayed the trial for almost 40 minutes. But when the judge started the process, all procedures were fulfilled. The witnesses were suggested to leave the courtroom. After that Natalla Rawkowa left the room. But the help of Shchukin allowed her to see her husband, to support him. Shchukin was in the courtroom till the end of the session.

On February 27 representatives of London branch of Amnesty International, Human Rights Center "Viasna", and "Legal Assistance to Public" attended the trial over Uladzimir Rawkow.

At 10 a.m. on March 6 the Miensk City Court (1/1Martsinkevich street) considered Yulia Chygir’s application concerning canceling of the sentence of Frunzenski District Court. According to part 2 of Article No. 363 of the Criminal Code Yulia Chygir was found

guilty of resisting the policemen on May 19, 2000 before the sentencing of her husband – the former Belarusian prime minister Mikhail Chygir. Minsk City Court left the previous decision unaltered.

On March 6 the recent political prisoner, deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the 13th Convocation Uladzimir Kudzinaw stated he wasn't going to continue business activity after his discharge. Instead of this he will establish a new human rights organization. The registration documentation is being prepared at the moment. U. Kudzinaw has also expressed the main principle of his future activity: "I will defend the truth and the whole truth and nothing but the truth!"

On March 8 Yulia Chygir received an official refusal from the investigator Salkow concerning her application to participate in the trial over her son in the capacity of his advocate. Yulia Chygir is going to challenge the refusal in court.

According to the norms of the new Criminal Code of Practice, close relatives of the defendant are admitted for his advocacy not on permission of the investigator (as in the previous code), but on the application of a defendant. In the given case there is such an application. So, the investigator obviously misused his powers, it must be only proved in court. Alexander Chygir's mother told journalists how the investigation is carried out. According to her words, total pressure is applied against all of Alexander's friends.

On March 19, in Centralny court of Minsk prosecutor requested 3 months of arrest to Valery Shchukin. Let us remind you, on January 17 the new Minister of Internal Affairs held his first press-conference in the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA). The Minister answered questions concerning the human disappearances in Belarus. Before the beginning of the press conference the well-known journalist Valery Shchukin suffered from the hostile actions of the MIA guards. Valery Shchukin (a free-lance correspondent of "Narodnaya Vola", a member of the Belarusian Association of Journalists) was seriously injured, trying to defend his right to receive information. Three guards laid Shchukin out on the floor. During the struggle between them a window was smashed and Shchukin got serious cuts. The guards had kept Shchukin down on the floor till the ambulance called by the journalists arrived. Shchukin was taken to the microsurgery department.

On March 20, Centralny court judge Illina satisfied prosecutor's request and sentenced Shchukin to 3 months of arrest. Journalist Shchukin was convicted under article 339 part 1 of the Criminal Code ("malicious hooliganism"). He has the right to appeal against the verdict in a 10-days term. For that period he signed a recognizance not

to leave the city and to behave properly. If the appeal is not satisfied, Shchukin will have to spend 3 months in jail.

On April 3 the Homel Region Court didn't satisfy the advocates solicitation for release of U. Rawkow on his own recognizance from the Investigative Isolator. On April 3 the Homel Regional Court dismissed Zmitser Ivanishka's motion concerning the release of the ex-Provost of the Homel Medical Institute Uladzimir Rawkow in connection with his state of health. The court dismissed the petition without any explanations. But Rawkow definitely has health problems. At the court sitting on March 30 Rawkow suffered a cardiac rhythm disturbance and the on-duty doctor had to call an ambulance. Uladzimir Rawkow was taken to the ambulance hospital. The doctors confirmed that he needed hospitalization, but said they couldn't leave him in the hospital as the authorities of the Investigative Isolator didn't let them. Natalla Rawkowa, Rawkow's wife, says: "My husband doesn't react to anything, pays attention to nothing, – in the Investigative Isolator they give him one kind of treatment, in the court hall – another. On March 26 he stated that he felt very bad and didn't understand the trial. The judge paid no attention to it. So, my husband, being seriously ill, is still kept in the Investigative Isolator. What is the sense of it all? Why not release him on his own recognizance not to leave the city? Recently I have found out that keeping of one prisoner costs 1 100 rubles a day. In Homel Investigative Isolator there are about 1 600 of them".

After 1 a.m. on April 5 the policemen from Miensk Central DBIA detained Alaksei Shydlowski, Tsimafei Dranchuk, Zmitser Drapachka and Ales Apranich. The fellows were detained near the fence where there were the following inscriptions: "Where is Ganchar?" "Where is Zakharanka?" "Where is Krasowski?" "Where is Zavadski?"

The policemen put the detainees faces to the ground, put them in handcuffs and took to Central DBIA. It's worth mentioning that A. Shydlowski has been already criminally punished (sentenced to 1,5 years of imprisonment in the high-security penitentiary) for graffiti.

On April 5 the criminal case by the terms of Article No. 341 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus (enforced in 2000) – "defilement of property and defacement of building" – was initiated. According to it one can be punished with corrective labor, fine or up to three months of arrest. In the case of the "Zubr" members there are numerous procedural violations. For instance, the detention reports were drawn up not within three hours, as the Criminal Code of Practice requires, but within 12 hours after the detention (immediately before the interrogation). In the detention report of Tsimafei Dranchuk the time of the detention wasn't specified. Here's Article No. 114 of the

Criminal Code of Practice: "The detainee is to be discharged by the decision of the body that conducts the consideration of the criminal case in the case if this body finds that this body finds violations in the process of detention… (…) The discharged person can't be again detained on the same charge". By the way, Article No. 341 of the Criminal Code states that if people are punished with arrest for its violation, he/she should be kept at a special arrest house. As a matter of fact, such houses don't exist in Belarus, that's why the prison in Valadarski Street, in Miensk, built in the 19th century will be used.

On April 7 four "Zubr" members were discharged from the Temporary Detention Ward. There weren't filed any accusations against them, but they were found "suspects" on the new graffiti case. Alaksei Shydlowski, Tsimafei Dranchuk, Zmitser Drapachka had to spend 72 hours in the isolator. The term "Suspect" was introduced by the new Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus (enforced in 2000). The lawyers have already filed complaints for numerous procedural violations during the detention of their clients.

On April 11 Siarhei Kalada was discharged on his own recognizance not to leave the city. The term of Alexander Chygir's arrest was prolonged for two months (he is accused of grand larceny, violation of Article No. 205.4 of the Criminal Code, can be sentenced to 7-15 years of imprisonment with confiscation of the property).

We should remind that A. Chygir and A. Kalada were detained on February 10 at the automobile market in Zhdanovichy. Since that time they have been kept in the Investigative Isolator in Valadarski Street in Miensk. Siarhei Kalada is accused of having violated the third part of Article No. 236 of the Criminal Code (purchase or sale of the property obtained illegally). He can be sentenced to 2-6 years of imprisonment with or without confiscation of property. On April 7 S. Kalada's defense lawyer, Siarhei Tsurko solicited for discharge of the suspect on recognizance because it was senseless to use arrest against him, as the crime he had committed didn't create danger to society. Besides, Siarhei Kalada had positive characters – had a constant place of residence and work, hasn't been judged before. The petition was considered by the investigative committee and granted.

On April 17 in Minsk City court the sentence on the criminal case against the leader of the Belarusian Social Democratic Party "Narodnaya Hramada" Mikola Statkevich and the deputy of the 13th Supreme Council Valery Shchukin was announced. They were accused in organizing and participating in the actions that disturbed civil order (article 186-3 of the Criminal Code). Having considered the case the judge Vysotskaya sentenced M. Statkevich to 100 minimal wages fine (approximately 430$). V. Shchukin was punished not only for this case but also for the accident in the Ministry of Internal Affairs offices

when he was refused entering the press conference of Internal Affairs minister Uladzimir Naumaw. The sentences were "combined" upon request of the prosecutor Uladzislaw Chyryn. Shchukin was sentenced to 30 minimal sentences fine and 3 month of arrest. They took off the accuse in the "organizing" and left "active participation" only. Both the sentenced and their defenders are planning to appeal to the court in a week term.

On May 10 it became known that there wasn't found any corpus delicti in the actions of the people who demanded a medical examination of Alexander Lukashenka's mental health. Let us remind you that On January 16, members of the Belarusian Social-democratic Party "Narodnaya Hramada" and "Maladaya Hramada" Ales Abramovich, Alesia Yasiuk, Nadzeya Hrachukha, Zmitser Kuzniatsow and Mikhail Kuzniatsow picketed at the central square of Barysaw demanding an urgent examination of Alexander Lukashenka's mental health. The unauthorized picket lasted for almost half an hour, and then the police detained all its participants and drew up reports registering their alleged violation of the second part of Art. 167.1 (violation of the order of organization and holding mass events). When Judge Alaksei Bolbataw received the case materials he sent them to the Procurator's office for additional investigation, because he considered the actions of the pickets to be violation of Art. 368 of the new Criminal Code ("Insult to the President of the Republic of Belarus"). According to Article No. 368 for a public insult to the Belarusian President one can be fined, sentenced to six months of arrest or up to two years of correctional labor or imprisonment. On May 10 criminal charges were dropped. But Ales Abramovich, Alesia Yasiuk, Nadzeya Hrachukha will be tried for administrative violation (article 167.1 part 2 of the Code of Administrative Offences (violation of the order of conducting mass events)).

On May 15 new charges were brought against ex-provost of Homel Medical Institute Uladzimir Rawkow. Three episodes (attempted bribe) were deleted from the new version. 2 new episodes were added instead – receiving a bribe on the base of the evidence given by the biology teacher Natalla Fomchanka, who was a member of the entrance examinations committee.

Natalla Fomchanka said that she had been receiving money and giving it to Uladzimir Rawkow. U. Rawkow refuses this fact. By the way, Uladzimir Rawkow's health (he has been kept in prison since July 1999) now is in a very bad condition. He has heart problems and high blood pressure.

On May 21 Homel region court resumed the pleadings on the case of Homel Medical Institute staff. During one of the court sessions the judge asked Rawkow if he was going to question the witnesses. Rawkow replied that he didn't feel good enough to be able to

participate in the trial. Rawkow's lawyer Dzmitry Ivanishka asked to enter the answer of his defendant in the minutes. Besides that, the lawyer pleaded for the following:

1. Summoning additional witnesses;

2. Forensic medical and psychiatric examination (to check the possible usage of psychotropic substances towards Rawkow in July 1999);

3. Admitting Rawkow's wife to the trial as a defender

4. Changing the measure of restraint (for the recognizance not to leave) in connection with poor health condition.

The court turned down all the requests, having considered them “unreasonable”.

On May 21 the state prosecution requested to the court to sentence Yury Bandazhewski to 9 years of imprisonment in a correctional labor colony with a reinforced regime and confiscation of the property. The same was requested for the ex-pro-rector Uladzimir Rawkow. The state prosecution also suggested that Rawkow, lieutenant colonel of medical military service, should be deprived of his military rank. The state prosecution asks the Military Judicial Board of the Supreme Court to sentence the members of the examination commissions Nina Shamochak (Belarusian language teacher) and Natalla Fomchanka (biology teacher) to 3 years of imprisonment. On the opinion of prosecution, Lilia Hancharova (member of the exam commission for chemistry) should be sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment in a colony with a general regime. The state prosecution asks to sentence 2 parents, charged with giving a bribe, to the term they have already spent in custody: 6 and 4 months, correspondingly. The 8th participant of the criminal proceedings – the mediator in giving the bribe – should be sentenced to correctional labor for the term of 1,5 years, on the opinion of the state prosecution. Announcing its requests to the court, the state prosecution stated that they consider the judicial inquest to have been conducted precisely and thoroughly and the guilt of all the accused to have been proved completely. The attorneys of Bandazhewski and Rawkow commented on the position of the prosecutors and expressed an absolutely different point of view. Attorneys Alexander Baranaw and Dzmitry Ivanishka state that the investigation failed to clarify the mechanism of “assistance” to students, and it is still left unclear what exactly the parents paid for. The attorneys believe that by demanding such a tough punishment with failure of proof, the prosecution continues to implement the political will of the state authorities.

On May 21, the European Parliament issued Yury Bandazhewski the "Passport of Freedom". 15 MEPs signed the letter with this information and sent it to the president of Belarus Alexander Lukashenka. The letter says that the criminal persecution of the "outstanding Belarusian scientist was met with the distrust and dissatisfaction" in the world scientific circles. The MEPs state that they oblige themselves to "provide any kind of assistance to the holder of this passport to ensure his safety and freedom of expression". This will be done both on personal level and in the frames of the political functions they have. The European Parliament states in its letter: "We will mobilize our own opinions and influence our governments and international organizations, as well as interested authorities of your country".

On May 22 the defense representatives entered the trial. Dzmitry Ivanishka, the attorney of Uladzimir Rawkow, stated that "the guilt of the defendant Rawkow is not proved and is based on negative attitude, which is unacceptable".

On May 25 the Military Judicial Board of the Supreme Court heard the last plea of the accused on the criminal case of Homel Medical Institute. The ex-pro-rector of the institute Uladzimir Rawkow in his speech kept asking Professor Yuri Bandazhewski to forgive him. "I am sorry I had to slander you", – said Rawkow, talking to his former chief. Uladzimir Rawkow was the first person arrested on the case in July 1999. He was the one who gave the evidence against Bandazhewski, which was the reason for arresting Bandazhewski. However, one week later Rawkow denied his words and still adheres to this position. In particular, Rawkow declares that he was forced to giving such evidence by the forbidden methods of investigation. Rawkow also reminded the Court that he was judged having no opportunity to read the materials of the criminal case. Rawkow did not admit his guilt. The accused members of the examination committees Nina Shamochak and Natalla Fomchanka confessed that they collaborated with the investigation. They said that they had helped the investigators to juggle with facts against Bandazhewski and Rawkow in exchange of discharge from prison and mild punishment. Bandazhewski stated that he had been treated unfairly since the time when he was the rector. He sees the only reason for that: the authorities do not like his scientific opinion concerning the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. "I understood how radionuclides impact the human body. I want to state that the health of our citizens is on a verge of disaster".

On June 6 the trial was postponed till June 12 – the court had to hear the last plea of one of the accused. Between the court sessions the police searched the office of Natalla Rawkowa (wife of ex-pro-rector Uladzimir Rawkow). Leaving her office, situated in Chyhunachny hospital, Natalla Rawkowa told her colleague: "Please, pay attention that I'm leaving together with the staff of anti-corrupt department. If anything happens to me

(for instance, if I disappear) then you'll know what it is…)" During the search (in the presence of attesting witnesses and Chyhunachny hospital staff) the police failed to find anything (they were looking for examination forms and lists of students). The officers of the anti-corruption department took Natalla Rawkowa with them to the dormitory and searched the apartment, where the Rawkows lived.

Natalla Rawkowa says: "This is the forth time they searched our apartment in 2 years. But it's for the first time they've searched the office. Can you imagine what racket they've made in the hospital? I am not the only one in the office, there are 2 other people working in the room… The absurd thing is that my husband has been in custody for 2 years. What could they keep on looking for? I had nothing to do with entrance examination commission. I consider all the search actions as a psychological pressure for my active position in defense of my husband. Recently another thought has crossed my mind: are they going to put anything stealthily in my belongings during one of the searches?"

On June 10, Professor Yury Bandazhewski was detained by border guards while allegedly attempting to illegally cross the Belarusian-Ukrainian border. According to boarder guards, Bandazhewski was trying to leave Belarus, using a passport, belonging to a Ukrainian Citizen. He has been under commitment not to leave the city. After having been detained, professor Bandazhewski is taken to Homel detention center. The issue of restraint measure is under consideration.

On June 12 wife of the former rector of Homel Medical Institute Yury Bandazhewski, Halina, asserts that detention of her husband was a provocation of secret services. According to Halina Bandazhewskaya, Yu. Bandazhewski intended to go to Minsk by train (for one day). He took with him the make-up of his book "Radio-Cesium and the born defects of body development". He intended to return to Homel on June 11, as the military board of the Supreme Court was to continue consideration of the case of bribery at Homel Medical Institute.

In two hours after Yu. Bandazhewski had supposedly gone to the railway station he was detained at Belarusian-Ukrainian border, in Novaya Huta. Colonel Butranets told correspondent of radio "Liberty" that Bandazhewski was trying to cross the border, using a passport, which belongs to a Ukrainian Citizen. Bandazhewski was taken to Homel and put into an isolator of terminal detention. The administrative investigation concerning the attempt of crossing the border is going on. Bandazhewski can be kept in the isolator for three days, or even for ten days (on Prosecutor's sanction). The boarder guards allowed the professor to call his wife. In the short telephone talk he said: "We must be

grateful to the border guards". Halina Bandazhewskaya excludes the possibility of the husband's escape on the eve of announcement of the verdict on his case.

On June 15 it became known that Bandazhewski was not allowed a meeting with his attorney, Alexander Baranaw.

On June 18 the verdict was ruled on the case of ex-rector of Homel Medical Institute professor Yury Bandazhewski and ex-pro-rector Uladzimir Rawkow. The judicial military board of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus has ruled the sentence. The court found the accused guilty, and, in accordance with the second part of article. 430 of the Criminal Code (accepting bribes) sentenced them to 8 years of imprisonment in a colony with a strict regime. As additional punishment they were also sentenced to property confiscation, Uladzimir Rawkow was deprived of his military rank - lieutenant colonel. The rest of the accused on the case received conditional sentences with the postponements of implementation. Relatives and advocates of U. Rawkow and Yu. Bandazhewski are going to appeal against the verdict.

On June 19 Harry Pahaniaila, a well-known lawyer told Radio Liberty:

"The sentence has been made, now it's necessary to complain against it. The main difficulty is that it was a member of Military Board of the Supreme Court who chaired the trial. According to our legislation, one can't submit a cassation complaint against this verdict. We can apply only to the supervisory court. This is the difficulty. But I have no doubt that Bandazhewski and his defense will complain against the verdict. In this case there were many violations. For instance, Bandazhewski's right to defense was violated.

Then comes the situation with his detention on the border and imprisonment before the verdict was announced. It vividly demonstrates the fact that the authorities want to see him in jail."

On June 26 new charges have been pressed against Alexander Chygir – - the son of Mikhail Chygir, who is one of the democratic candidates to run against Lukashenka. According to Yulia Chygir, the mother of Alexander, he is charged with "organizing and heading a criminal group". According to the investigation, the group of Chygir junior, did not only sell the stolen parts of the cars, but also stole 4 vans. "This is already the third version of the investigation, which is critically different from the original one. We have the evidence of the absurd nature of these charges, but we'll keep it in secret until the trial", – stated Mrs. Chygir.

At 3 a.m. on July 13 in Minsk four members of the unregistered youth movement «Zubr» were detained: Katsiaryna Shaban, Yury Antonaw, Zmitser and Piatro (their

surnames are not known at present). The police took all of the detainees to Pershamaiski District Board of Internal Affairs and have kept them there until the evening of July 13. A criminal case was initiated by the terms of the first part of Article No. 218 (deliberate defacement or destruction of property) because of the inscription «Time to Choose».

On July 26 at Minsk Partyzanski District Court judge Barysionak has passed verdicts on the criminal case against four members of the unregistered youth movement «Zubr». According to the case materials, the prosecution accused the defendants of violation of the first part of Article No. 218 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus because of the graffiti «Zubr» on the walls of dwelling houses in Kazlova Street and the building of Minsk Partyzanski District Administration. The judge found the defendants guilty in the deliberate waste of property. The following sentences were passed:

1. Alaksei Shydlowski – 2 years of corrective labor (on the working place) with exaction of 20% of the salary;

2. Siarhei Koktysh – 2 years of corrective labor (on the working place) with exaction of 10% of the salary;

3. Anatol Alizar – fined 100 minimal wages;

4. Alexander Yermakow – fined 100 minimal wages.

On August 14 at 6.40 p.m. in Shklow the police detained 5 activists of Get Out the Vote campaign (2 of them under age). The young people were detained during a performance with masks, which the police took for the image of a presidential candidate Lukashenka. The police brought up the charges by the terms of article 156 of the Code of Administrative Offences (disorderly conduct). The police conducted a "seizure" of a mask and other materials, as well as the clothes (mobilization campaign T-shirts) and a camera. In the night (at 0.30 a.m.) of August 15 the police released the under-aged. The young people who came of age will have to wait for the trial, which will take place on August 15, in the police station. The people, who will be tried, are:

1. Dzmitry Shalashkaw

2. Dzianis Senakosaw

3. Mikhail Kisialow

On August 16 Dzmitry Shalashkaw, Dzianis Senakosaw, and Mikhail Kisialow were informed about the initiation of criminal charges against them. The charges are brought

by the terms of article 368 Part 1 of the Criminal Code "Public Affront of the President of the Republic of Belarus".

On August 28 we received information that the criminal investigation against the employees of “Volny Horad” (Free Town) newspaper was continued for another month in Krychaw. The criminal charges against Siarhei Niarowny, Vadzim Stefanenka, Mikalai Matoranka were brought under Article 183 Part 1 of the Criminal Code (limiting personal freedom by violent retention). Lieutenant of the Department for Fighting Economic Crimes Rybchynski who came to examine the office of “Volny Horad” is said to be a victim. Mikalai Matoranka says: “The case of submitted to the prosecuting bodies because the inquiry body is not able to investigate the case, where their employee is a victim. Besides that, lieutenant Rybchynski keeps avoiding to participate in the investigation”.

On September 5 Rechytsa Procurator (Homel Oblast) initiated a criminal case by the terms of Article 367 of the Criminal Code (libel towards president of the Republic of Belarus in public speech, printed edition, publicly demonstrated artistic work or Mass Media”. The police detained Natalla Brel, a member of the United Civic Party in connection with this case. Yury Dziamianchyk, the investigator of the Procurator’s office, investigates the case. The violation of Article 367 can be punished with a fine, corrective labor for up to two years or imprisonment for up to 4 years).

On September 8 Natalla Brel was released from the detention center after she formally promised not to leave the place of permanent residence. The 27-year-old female activist of United Civic Party Natalla Brel has spent 3 days in the detention center. All the time she refused to give any evidence. She was found a suspect on the criminal case, initiated for violation of article 367 of the Criminal Code (libel to the president of the Republic of Belarus in the public speech, publicly demonstrated artistic work or Mass Media).

On September 17 deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the 13th Convocation, prisoner of conscience Andrei Klimaw met his 36th birthday in jail. On March 17 Miensk Leninski Court sentenced him to 6 years of imprisonment.

On September 19 Krychaw District Procurator’s office again started interrogating the workers of the “Volny Horad” newspaper Siarhei Niarowny, Vadzim Stefanenka and Mikalai Matoranka. The criminal persecution of Niarowny, Stefanenka and Matoranka was resumed with the alleged illegal detention of a policeman. This charge was brought several months ago when the police assaulted the Krychaw headquarters of Siamion Domash and confiscated all equipment of the newspaper’s editorial staff.

On September 26 the consideration of the case of Siarhei Vinnikaw (son of the ex-Chairman of National Bank of the Republic of Belarus Tamara Vinnikava who had escaped from home arrest and emigrated to England) and three other people, accused of illegal operation with narcotic drugs continued at the Minsk Central District Court. The trial started on September 5, but the case consideration was stopped for a while in connection with Vinnikaw's illness. On that day judge Piatro Kirkowski satisfied the motion of the accused concerning the closed trial, which was made in accordance with Article No. 23 of Criminal Code of Practice of the Republic of Belarus ". in order to prevent the announcement of information about the private life of the case participants or information degrading their dignity". On September 26 he State prosecutor passed the guilty verdict on the base of the investigative materials. Then the interrogation of the defendant started. It's worth mentioning that Siarhei Vinnikaw as well as Ionas Arlauskas (born in Lithuania, at present – a citizen of Belarus) were detained on March 21, 2001. They are accused of violating the third Part of Article No. 328 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus, which provides the repeated or group nature of the criminal activity, which can be punished with 5-10 years of imprisonment.

On 4 October the Centralny District Court of Minsk adjudged Siarhei Vinnikaw, son of Tamara Vinnikava, former chair of the National Bank of Belarus, guilty of the illegal drug trafficking and sentenced him to a two-year suspended imprisonment. During the two years two come, Vinnikaw, who ran a business before the arrest, will have to give the state 20% of his salary. Three more people were adjudged guilty of illegal drug trafficking. They all received different punishments - from a fine to a two-year imprisonment. Siarhei Vinnikaw had spent 5 months in a detention ward; in July of this year he was released for health reasons. The hearing of the case of the former National Bank Chair's son was closed and, according to Vinnikaw's lawyer, that had been done at the initiative of Vinnikaw. S. Vinnikaw did not plead guilty, however, it is still unknown whether he is going to appeal the verdict. Generally speaking, independent observers consider this court ruling surprisingly soft and attribute it to «the silence of T. Vinnikava» who has repeatedly said she has compromising materials against Lukashenka, however she did not use them during the run-up to the election as her son was at the time in prison...

On October 12 the criminal case against members of the editorial staff of the "Volny Horad" newspaper was stopped due to the absence of corpus delicti. The criminal case against Siarhei Niarowny, Vadzim Stefanenka against Mikalai Matoranka had been initiated by the terms of the first part of Article No. 183 (limitation of personal freedom through forcible detention). The "victim" in this case was Rybchynski, the lieutenant of

the police department for economic crimes, who had come to the editorial office with a check-up.

On November 21 they arrested Leanid Kaluhin, the chief of Minsk Refrigerator Factory "Atlant". "Atlant" is one of the most stable factories in the country, but nobody was really surprised about his arrest. Everybody could recall, that in spite of repeated efforts of Lukashenka's administration, Kaluhin refused to withdraw his candidature. No forgiveness… Leanid Kaluhin is charged under several articles of the Criminal Code: abuse of power or position (article 424 part 3), failure to return foreign currency from abroad (article 225), illegal business activities (article 233 part 2). The factory workers stood up for their chief. In their statement the workers express doubts, that Kaluhin, who is also a believer and did a lot for the Orthodox Church, could commit crimes. Sixty-one-year-old Kaluhin went on a hunger strike right after his arrest. Though he had to stop it for the health reasons.

On October 22 the journalists of Krychaw independent newspaper "Volny Horad" were again criminally charged. The accused learned about that only in the beginning of November, when they were summoned for interrogation. Siarhei Niarowny, Vadzim Stefanenka and Mikalai Matoranka were charged on July 12. They were accused of illegal detention (article 183 part 1 of the Criminal Code) of a policeman. The journalists said the real reason was the desire of Krychaw authorities to stop them from publishing the newspaper and to limit their public activity. The charges were dropped on October 15 because of lack of corpus delicti. The journalists filed a complaint to court, demanding for moral compensation from Krychaw DBIA. However, the deputy of Krychaw prosecutor considered the closure of the case illegal and reinitiated investigation…

On December 3 the prosecutor again dropped criminal charges against journalists of "Volny Horad" (Free Town) independent newspaper. Siarhei Niarowny, Vadzim Stefanenka and Mikalai Matoranka were charged on July 12. The charges were dropped on October 15 because of lack of corpus delicti. However, on October 22 the criminal case against the journalists was reopened, just to be closed again in December…

On December 6 Minsk district investigators started a criminal case vandalism in Kurapaty. The so called “Clinton’s bench” was ruined by unknown vandals. The memorial had been built during the visit of Bill Clinton to Kurapaty. The investigators came to the headquarters of the Belarusian Popular Front and interrogated several members of the party and the leader of Young Front Paval Seviarynets as witnesses.

The police was interested in the opinion of Kurapaty defenders about this barbaric action. It is worth to mention that the police started to deal with the criminal case 3 months after the memorial had been destroyed.

Minsk city police has also become unexpectedly active in investigation of Kurapaty case.

On December 12 Minsk city court started a trial over the participants of "Freedom March" of October 17, 1999. Hleb Dohil, Herman Sushkevich, Anton Lazaraw and Andrei Valabuyew were detained On October 17, 1999, after the Freedom March. They were accused of throwing stones into the soldiers of internal forces during the crowd dispersal. The guys are charged with malicious hooliganism and organization of mass disorder. All of the accused fled to Poland and received political asylum there. They are tried in their absence. At the present moment, all of them are students of universities in Warsaw, Krakow and Bialystok.

On December 29 judge Valery Kamisaraw found Hleb Dohil, Herman Sushkevich, Anton Lazaraw and Andrei Valabuyew guilty under Art. 186.3 and 201.2 of the Criminal Code. They were fined 50 minimal wages (about $315) each.

On December 19 Leninski district court will start the hearings on the criminal case of Alexander Chygir – the younger son of Mikhail Chygir, ex-prime-minister and one of the presidential candidates. Alexander Chygir is charged under article 205 part 3 of the Criminal Code. He is accused of grand theft of cars, committed by an organized

group. Let us remind you, that Alexander Chygir was arrested on February 10, 2001 on a car market in Zhdanovichy. Yulia Chygir, the mother of Alexander, immediately expressed her assurance, that the arrest of her younger son was a provocation, connected with Mikhail Chygir's political activities. Alexander’s lawyer Dzmitry Ivanishka says: “Alexander pleaded not guilty from the very beginning and is still pleading not guilty. We know that Alexander Chygir had a business of trading car spares, paid taxes and didn’t break any laws”.

In December Alexander Lukashenka refused to grant a pardon to Professor Yury Bandazhewski, who had appealed for pardon a month ago. Yury Bandazhewski received an official refusal in Minsk colony, where he has spent 5 months. Bandazhewski is now serving his term on the sentence for bribe taking. The family of Bandazhewski says that the reply from Lukashenka's office is "very laconic, just informing that the appeal is not satisfied. There are no explanations whatsoever".

DISAPPEARING OF PEOPLE IN BELARUS

On January 9 Henadz Barbarych, the reporter of BelaPAN news agency was summoned to the prosecutor’s office in connection with the article “Dzima – New Hopes”, published in “Narodnaya Vola” newspaper on January 6, 2001. The prosecutor wanted to know where had the journalist learned the facts, stated in the article. The record of the interrogation was made. Henadz Barbarych was suggested that he should sigh a paper of “non-disclosure”, but the journalist refused to do that.

On March 11, Yawhen Labanovich, head of the executive committee of the United Civil Party, was forced to leave the train departing Minsk for Moscow, reported BelaPAN. The opposition leader, who was heading for the Russian capital to meet Nikolai Nikolaev, host of “Independent Research,” a program broadcast by NTV, Russia’s independent television channel, as well as to participate in the press-conference on abduction of prominent Belarusian opposition politicians, was searched and taken to the police station. During the search, the policemen copied all the documents, mostly newspaper articles, about political disappearances in Belarus, including a copy of documentary titled “Wild Manhunt,” produced by Pavel Sheremet, head of special projects at ORT, Russia’s public television station. A dozen police officers who carried out the search called themselves members of the investigation crew on Zavadski’s case but refused to introduce themselves. Labanovich says his detention was senseless. Labanovich refused to sign a protocol about his detention. In 3 hours he was released and phoned his party colleagues, who brought copies of confiscated documents to the train station. He took the night train to Moscow. In the morning of March 13, he was in Moscow.

On May 14 Procurator Ivan Branchel, the head of the investigation of Zmitser Zavadski’s disappearance, and Deputy Procurator General Mikhail Chygir called the names of the people guilty of kidnapping of Zmitser Zavadski at a special briefing. According to their words, the crime was committed by a group organized by the former worker of the special police subdivision “Almaz” Valery Ihnatovich (the surnames of the other criminals were not called, which was explained by the secrecy of investigation and presumption of innocence). According to the official version, the crime was committed to take revenge on Zavadski for mentioning him in one of the interviews. However, it seemed quite disputable for the journalists who asked many questions, some of which remained unanswered. The case will be transferred to court not less than in two months. Then the court will need some time for defining the trial day. So, the case consideration may begin after the Presidential election.

On May 21 a film about disappearing of political and public activists in Belarus was shown in Bratislava. The film was made by the Czech TV with the help of the human rights organization “PEOPLE IN NEED”. The film was shown in the Czech Culture Center in Bratislava. The organizers invited many Slovak journalists, members of human rights organizations and other NGOs. After the film they organized a discussion which grew into a press conference. Most of the questions were directed to Michal Plavec, the Czech journalist who had participated in making the film, and Valantsin Stefanovich, the representative of the Human Rights Center "Viasna".

On June 11, "Viasna" was e-mailed the interview with the member of investigative group on Zmitser Zavadski’s case Zmitser Petrushkevich and the former Prosecutorial investigator Aleh Sluchak. They state that the well-known people in Belarus were kidnapped by the so called "Death Squadron", which had been created on the order of top Belarusian officials and consisted of the members of special unit "Almaz", headed by Dzmitry Pawlichenka. The very fact of such an interview witnesses that the situation in the Belarusian Prosecutorial establishments and KGB becomes almost critical. Pavel Sheremet, head of PRT department of special informational programs, said the following in his interview to a BelaPAN correspondent: “According to our information, two investigators who were working on the case of the disappeared people, have recently died from cardiac insufficiency. One of the main witnesses, former worker of special police forces, Kabzar, has also died for the same reason. This looks even stranger, as he was leading an exceptionally healthy way of life.” Sheremet also thinks that there exists a real danger to Zmitser Petrushkevich and Aleh Sluchak, who have recently escaped abroad. According to his information, the situation around the investigative group is quite nervous, and if Lukashenka wins the future election, everybody, who has any relation to the investigation, will be treated quite severely. By the way, Zavadski’s case soon will be transferred to court. The main participants of the trial, the accused and the plaintiffs, finish their familiarization with the case materials.

On July 23 the criminal case concerning kidnapping of the PRT cameraman Zmitser Zavadski was transferred to Minsk Regional Court. Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus solved the question of venue on the case in accordance with Article No. 274 of the Criminal Procedures Code. He also took into consideration the fact that the majority of the victims and witnesses, the accused V. Ihnatovich, M. Malik, A. Huz and S. Savushkin lived in Minsk region.

In July new documents were added to the facts the investigators A. Sluchak and Z. Petrushkevich had given to the world. At the press conference in BFT head-quarters

Uladzimir Gancharyk, a potential presidential candidate made a statement that he had Xerox copies of the documents concerning disappearances of ex-Minister of Internal Affairs Yury Zakharanka, vice-Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Viktar Ganchar and the businessman Anatol Krasowski. At the press conference he showed a Xerox copy of a hand-written text that, according to his words, is a report of major-general Mikalai Lapatsik, Head of the Main Board of Criminal Police of Ministry of Internal Affairs (MBCP MIA), to Uladzimir Naumaw, Minister of Internal Affairs. Uladzimir Gancharyk said he would direct an open letter to Alexander Lukashenka and put there the information he had, in order to make Lukashenka react. Now one can say it was a vain hope. Neither Lukashenka, nor Premier-Minister, nor Procurator General, nor Minister of Internal Affairs reacted to this information, as well as any other information concerning the fate of the disappeared. Isn't it because their surnames stand among those who had made orders for the "disappearances"?

On July 31 Mr. Lukashenka stated that opposition intended to assault his residence after the election "They know it pretty well that I will defend myself. I won't sit in a bunker, like Milosevic did. I am not afraid of anybody; I haven't stolen anything from my people. And I will defend myself. Who will defend me? Army - it can't deal with internal affairs and therefore won't intervene. Certainly, it is for internal forces. There is a specially trained police squad. Pawlichenka (you know the guy) is in charge of it." It's worth mentioning that the recently published documents reveal that it was Colonel Pawlichenka who had been behind the disappearance of opposition politicians.

On August 13 Zinaida Ganchar addressed KGB, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Prosecutor General. Zinaida Ganchar writes: "Recently mass media publish information, connected with kidnapping my husband V. Ganchar. Journalists refer to a document, the authorship of which is attributed to M. Lapatsik, General of The Ministry of Internal Affairs". Mrs. Ganchar obviously means the hand-written report of ex-chief of Main Board of criminal police Mikalai Lapatsik. In his report he gave the names of the heads of the state power structures, who might have participated in the disappearance of the opposition politicians). Zinaida Ganchar: "I am surprised at the lack of any official reaction, first of all of the prosecution, which conducts the investigation, to the reports in mass media". Mrs. Ganchar asks to interrogate General Lapatsik and find out if the document is real, to conduct a graphology expertise and to check the information. Besides that, Zinaida Ganchar addressed General Lapatsik, "an officer and a citizen", asking to "publicly confirm or refute his authorship".

September 16 – two years ago Viktar Ganchar and Anatol Krasowski disappeared. Viktar's wife, Zinaida Ganchar stated that the authorities had not even cared to simulate

the investigation of the strange disappearances. “I’m sure that it was kidnapping of someone who could have become the main opponent to Lukashenka's regime. Now, after the election, everything depends on the people’s position. I have repeatedly demanded that the authorities carry out an investigation and give the full and reliable information on these cases. But nobody can get anything alone. The criminals should know, though, that they someday, be it five or ten years, each of them will get their due", – said Zinaida Ganchar.

On September 17 in Minsk the leader of the United Civic Party Anatol Labedzka informed the journalists that the Belarusian opposition is going to initiate the consideration of the cases concerning the disappearances of well-known Belarusian politicians and public activists in the European Court of Human Rights. It won’t be easy to do that, as Belarus is not a member of the Council of Europe. But, as Labedzka said, the opposition representatives have already found a way to make such application to the court possible.

On 10 October the board of the Belarusian Association of Journalists appealed the Minsk region Court to allow a BAJ representative into the courtroom on the day of hearing the case of the disappeared Dzmitry Zavadski. As is known, the court hearing starts on 23 October and is to be closed. The reasons given by the BAJ are these: a closed hearing may prevent society from knowing the true story of D. Zavadski’s disappearance.

On October 22 they started the trial over the so-called “Ihnatovich’s gang”, accused of a number of crimes, including the kidnapping and murder of ORT cameraman Zmitser Zavadski. In spite of the numerous requests and petitions of Zmitser’s friends and relatives it was announced that the trial would be closed. Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus Valantsin Sukala said that it was done because of the petition of five witnesses who were afraid of being murdered and stated that they would testify only at a closed trial. At the trial they will also have pen-names instead of the real ones. On October 24 journalists, human rights activists, advocates, friends and relatives of Zmitser Zavadski, who wanted to attend consideration of the criminal case, initiated after his disappearance gathered outside the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus in Lenin Street. However, the authorities didn’t let anybody into the courtroom, except for the 20 people, who stood on the list of the court’s Security service. Among them were advocates, and relatives of the victims. From Zavadski’s family there were Zmitser’s wife Sviatlana and his mother Volha Zavadskaya. Even a representative of ORT wasn’t admitted to the trial, though on its eve he received guarantees from the Minister of Internal Affairs Uladzimir Naumaw.

On October 23 in Homel Alexander Lukashenka made a sensational statement: "If one is honest maintaining his politics, if you are not a thief, the criminals are terribly afraid of this: "Guys, our President said he'll make short work of us". There was a case where they behaved wrong. Remember Shchawlik and the others. Where are they now? That's why there's order in the country and everybody is satisfied. They even report to Security Service: "Three thousands have already voted for you". Actually, by these words Alexander Lukashenka confirmed that he controlled the criminals and they voted for him at the election. Moreover, he hinted about his relation to Shchawlik's disappearance. Shchawlik was a prominent Minsk criminal who has disappeared. According to the information of the investigators Sluchak and Petrushkevich, he was killed by the "death squadron". The investigators said, that at first the squadron was training on such criminals as Shchawlik and Mamantsionak, then went over to political assassinations – Yury Zakharanka, Viktar Ganchar, Anatol Krasowski…

On November 23 Minsk region court, which hears the case of "Ihnatovich group", started interrogating employees of Belarusian office of ORT (Public Russian Television). They are questioned in connection with one of the episodes of the case on kidnapping Dzmitry Zavadski. The proceedings take place in the building of the Supreme Court and are still closed to public. Journalists are not let to the courtroom. A great number of policemen and special services agents in plain clothes are always on duty around the building. Last week Alaksei Huz – one of the accused – appealed to Zavadski's family, stating that neither he nor Valery Ihnatovich nor the other accused have any connection with disappearing of Zavadski. Ex-KGB agent Henadz Uhlanitsa and "Krai" activist Andrei Zharnasek, who left Belarus in August and live now in Norway, also think that "Ihnatovich group" has no connection to Zavadski's disappearing. In his interview to RFE/RL Uhlanitsa said Zavadski traveled to Chechnya three times, not twice as it was believed. The journalist never shared with anyone the circumstances of his third trip, during which he was detained by Russian soldiers. "We started to search for Ganchar and Krasowski, – says Uhlanitsa, – and it became clear that Pawlichenka and his SOBR [the Interior Ministry's special rapid response unit] have something to do with it. We learned that SOBR under Pawlichenka was disbanded in December 2000, after Pawlichenka had been detained by KGB and later scandalously released, and Bazhelka (Prosecutor general) and Matskevich (head of KGB) were dismissed from their posts. Most of the people, who had served in SOBR were hired by Russia to fight against Chechen rebels…" Zharnasek adds: "Just imagine, that on July 3-4, during the celebrations of the Day of the Republic held at the military unit # 3214, Zavadski met the people, who had detained him in Chechnya, but they were already wearing Belarusian Army uniform…" This way, the case of Zavadski disappearing is again traced back to the same Pawlichenka and further to the Security

Council... On November 23 the court interrogated workers of ORT Belarusian Bureau: Dzmitry Navazhylaw, its Head, cameraman Siarhei Helbakh, driver Yaraslaw Awchynnikaw. They had to sign the undertaking not to distribute the secret information...

VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS DURING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

On June 21 the people, who introduced themselves as G. Severaw (a police officer) and Mikalai Brutski (a KGB officer) burst into the apartment of Dzianis Marchanka. Dzianis Marchanka was out of town, and let his friends (including Alexander Slavinski) to use his apartment. They were forced to open the doors. As the 2 people entered the apartment, they behaved provocatively, and ransacked the private belongings of the apartment's owner. When Mr. Slavinski insisted that they show the search warrant, Mr. Severaw replied: "That's not a search, it's an inspection". We have all the reasons. He didn't specify what reasons he meant. The police and KGB officers ignored all the demands to leave the apartment. Then the «guests» demanded to see the documents of all the people present. When they found out that Slavinski doesn't have his passport on him, they called for captain Horahlad from Stolin District Board of Internal Affairs, who took Slavinski to the police station. On the way to the police station captain Horahlad and Severaw threatened and mocked at Slavinski. He spent over 6 hours (from 12.00 till 6.15 p.m.) in the police station. He was denied his right to call home on the ground that «the telephone was out of order». At the same time the police officers withdrew the computer equipment from the apartment of Marchanka, in the presence of his friends and witnesses. They withdrew a computer, modem, printer, a lot of books and brochures and private belongings of Marchanka and Slavinski. The list they made during the distrait was incomplete. Then they made all the people present write an explanation and took their passports away. Then they brought them to the police station (around 2.45), where they took their fingerprints. All the people had to spend around 3 hours in the police station. Severaw made 2 girls to undergo medical examination in skin and venereal diseases clinic, saying that he would give their passports back only after they bring him the appropriate document from the clinic.

Brest regional branch of the human rights center "Viasna" applied to Stolin prosecutor and the head of Stolin KGB department with a request to defend the rights of the citizens, return the computer equipment, books and private belongings to their owners and to punish G. Severaw from Stolin DBIA and M. Brutski from local KGB.

On June 23 V. Prakopchyk, member of Domash Initiative group, was illegally detained on Drahichyn town market. Prakopchyk was collecting signatures for his candidate. The detention was made by the people in civil clothes, who do not live in Drahichyn. They took him to the police station and called for the head of the town police. After that Prakopchyk was released.

On June 24 the police detained Yahor Viarshyla, member of Domash Initiative group, was collecting signatures for his candidate near Kobryn town market. He was accused in "unauthorized picketing". He had an A4 format poster, lying on his table, which said: "Dear voters, here you can leave your signature for Domash, the potential candidate for the post of president". In 45 minutes Yahor Viarshyla was released.

On June 24, in Shklow, a KGB agent contacted Lubow Kaverka, member of Domash Initiative group. He wanted to know the details of Domash visit to Shklow and his meeting with people (who was the organizer, who was present, etc.). Lubow Kaverka considers this conversation pressure on the members of the initiative group.

On June 28, member of Domash Initiative Group Yury Pchelnikaw was detained in Mahilow. He was collecting signatures on Karalova Street. In spite of the fact, that he had shown his passport and certificate of a member of the initiative group, the police detained him and took to a police point. In 30 minutes he was released.

On June 28, in Dziarzhynsk, the police detained members of Yarashuk Initiative Group and confiscated all the signatures they had collected with absolutely no grounds.

On July 9 Alena Abakunchyk, teacher of Pukhavitski sports school, brought signatures, she had collected for Mikhail Chygir to district executive committee. Deputy head of the executive committee Tamara Shchakotsina started to swear at her, and called for the head of education department. On July 10 she sent examination commission to the sports school.

On July 14 Ales Masiuk, Head of the initiative group of the candidate for the presidential position Siamion Domash, was detained in Slonim (a town in Hrodna region). Judging by all circumstances, he has been watched. The police took A. Masiuk to the local police board, confiscated signature lists and 4 certificates of the initiative group members. The policemen composed a confiscation report. However, they didn’t compose any detention report. Ales Masiuk also received a call-up to the police board on 9 a.m. on July 16 for further handling under the direction of vice-Head of Slonim Police Board Henadz Shlykovich.

On July 17 participants of the «Choose» campaign held their regular action in Navapolatsk. In the center of the city they put a stand with the mobilization logo – the rising sun. Dozen of youngsters in orange T-shirts called people to come to the polling stations on September 9 and vote. Simultaneously they distributed the stickers and the local independent newspaper «Novy Horad» («New City»). People were readily coming up to the action organizers, asking questions about the upcoming election and taking the

handouts. The policemen didn't react to the picket… The action continued at one of the city's mini-markets where the businessman were informed about the necessity of voting at the election of the second president of the Republic of Belarus. It was youth center «Svaroh» that organized the action. Vitebsk Center of Youth Initiative «Contour» supported the organization.

On July 22 Zhabinka police detained Henadz Samoilenka and two Brest citizens: Zmitser Paharelski and Andrei Zalatar. The policemen detained them near the local school without telling their names or showing the documents. During the detention they also searched the personal belongings. Then they took the detainees to the Zhabinka Department of Internal Affairs with no explanations. According to the on-duty officer, nobody arrested the three; they came there «for a talk». They were detained, because a short time ago somebody had been promising people $500- salaries, distributing comic money and a special edition of the newspaper «Nasha Svaboda». After the end of the action its participants changed their clothes and went away. Approximately at 1.30 p.m. the police took to the Department of Internal Affairs three under aged Brest citizens, Yawhenia Barsuk, Sviatlana Charniawskaya and Krystsina Charko (each of them was 15 years old). The policemen took away from Yawhenia Barsuk a mask, reminding of somebody, and a German helmet, made in 1938. Police captain Sawchuk composed a report. The policemen promised to return the things after the expertise. Then the policemen let Chairman of Brest branch of PA HRC «Viasna» U. Vialichkin to take the girls home.

At 3.30 p.m. on July 25 V. Kazak applied to public reception-room of Brest branch of the PA HRC «Viasna». He said that at 3 p.m. he had seen his acquaintance Pavel detained by unknown people in plain clothes in Savetskaya Street in Brest for distribution of the newspaper «Nasha Svaboda». Human rights activists applied to the Brest Leninski District Board of Internal Affairs (DBIA). The on-duty policeman Karpuk repeatedly gave negative replies saying the police hadn't taken anybody to the DBIA for distribution of newspapers for the last two hours. However, soon the organization members found the detainee. It was Pavel Dzemianiuk. He said the following: while he was distributing «Nasha Svaboda» near a shop at the corner of Savetskaya and Gogol Streets, two DBIA workers in civil clothes came up to him. They showed their documents and then took to the shop security service for identification. Then they took him to the Leninski DBIA, showed to the duty officer and asked what they should do with him. He said that the newspaper was registered and the detainee had made no violations. After this the policemen begged Pavel's pardon and let him go.

On July 26 policemen of Brest Maskowski DBIA returned K. Danko 152 numbers of the special edition of «Rabochy» newspaper, confiscated from him on June 12. They admitted Kiryl Danko hadn't violated anything and apologized to him for the confiscation.

On July 27 dispatcher of building administration No. 226, member S. Haidukevich's initiative group Lusia Azioma was fired from her job. The formal reason was that the leave of absence of the dispatcher whom she substituted at his working place was over. But when she was employed, the employees said she would replace 12 dispatchers who would have holidays in turn.

In the end of July administration of Hrodna meat processing and packing factory forced Alexander Samoila to write an application for his dismissal because of his "work in opposition". Alexander worked in the Domash campaign headquarters. When Alexander started to refuse to quit on his own will, the personnel manager warned him that he would be fired with unfavorable recommendations.

On August 1 Loyew district court started to consider the administrative case against Viachaslaw Bashmakow, collector of signatures against Siamion Domash. The case was initiated by local administration. Natalla Trukhan, head of area administration explained in court, that she was called by veteran Mikola Hawrylenka from village Kazimirawka. He told her that some people collect signatures in their and some neighboring villages not in support of Lukashenka, but in support of Siamion Domash. She called Siarhei Dzemidzenka, head of the district election commission and told him the news. The authorities got scared that the people in the community do not support Lukashenka unanimously. Head of the area administration Trukhan, together with other district officials, some members of the election commission and district prosecutor Vasil Prymak started to visit the village pensioners, who had put their signature in support of Domash. Their visits resulted in explanation letters from the villagers about violations, made by Viachaslaw Bashmakow during signature collection. The lawyer of district executive committee Puhach drew up a report on the ground of these explanation letters, which had been taken down from the officials' dictation. Deputy head of district executive committee Mikhal Satsura submitted the report to court. On August 8 judge Siarhei Burba found Bashmakow guilty and fined him 45,000 roubles.

In the evening of August 1 in Vitebsk the police detained chairman of Vitebsk UCP branch Alena Zaleskaya and four UCP activists, Maryna Artsimovich, Sviatlana Lamaniuk, Tamara Arkushava, and Andrei Talstykh. They were detained for distribution of the independent newspapers 'Rabochy" and "Belaruskaya Maladziozhnaya", devoted to the

upcoming presidential election. The policemen confiscated the newspapers and then let the distributors go.

On August 1 Svetlahorsk policemen, headed by Captain Mikhail Ramanaw, visited the "Independent Monitoring" headquarters for the third time. The policemen explained their visit, saying that their neighbors were disturbed by the noise from the typewriter. By the way, the office never had any typewriter.

On August 3 Barysaw policemen, headed by lieutenant Khadyka, detained 2 under-age Zubr members, who were distributing special issue of "Rabochy" newspaper on the local market. The issue of "Rabochy" covered the election campaign and the situation with the disappeared politicians. In the police station the under age Zubrs were forced to write explanation notes, to give various information about themselves and their parents, etc. After that the teenagers were released.

On August 3 Zhodzina policemen detained 5 Zubr members. They were accused of distributing illegally published printed matter. The police searched the guys and found about 50 stickers and paint-cylinders with red, blue and white paint. The police confiscated the materials and took teenagers' fingerprints. Zubrs were kept in the police station for the whole night. They were released only the next morning.

On August 3 the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus published its statement in "Sovetskaya Belorussia" and other official newspapers. It stated that some newspapers spread the information about the activities of unregistered civil formations. In particular, the statement declares that "Belaruskaya Delovaya Gazeta" published the article "Independent observation" in the issue # 12 from July 25, 2001 and the interview of M. Hryb "Observation with obstacles" in the issue # 14 from July 27, 2001, in which it informed its readers about the start of the activities of "Public associations' union of civic initiative "Independent Monitoring" that includes several registered organizations and the "Movement for democratic and fair elections", which is being registered at the moment". The ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus states that "Public associations' union of civic initiative "Independent Monitoring" was not registered in the legal order and therefore did not have the right to conduct any activities on the territory of Belarus". "Besides that, information about the "Movement for democratic and fair elections" was false, because it was denied registration in November 2000. On January 15, 2001 the Supreme Court agreed with such a decision of the Ministry of Justice and refused to satisfy complaints of Hryb and others", – declared the Ministry of Justice in its statement.

On August 3 in Babruisk the police arrested Vital Arlow and Zmitser Zhalazniak for distribution of the special issue of the bulletin "Right to Freedom" and the newspaper "Nasha Svaboda". The policemen took the detainees to Babruisk Leninski DBIA, searched them there and made a report registering the seizure of the bulletin copies. Besides 'Right to Freedom" and 'Nasha Svaboda" the police confiscated the stickers 'Time to Choose" and the stickers of the public initiative "Independent Monitoring" - "Observer Guarantees Order at Election", etc. The detainees wrote explanatory notes. After this they were interrogated. The main questions were: "Where did you get newspapers and stickers? How much are you paid?" The youngsters said they had been doing it voluntarily. Vital Arlow and Zmitser Zhalazniak were released only at 4 p.m., more than in 3 hours after detention, which is in violation with the Belarusian Code of Administrative Offences.

On August 5 in Vitebsk, the policemen of Chyhunachny District Board of Internal Affairs detained Siarhei Vasenka, the chairperson of Vitebsk branch of H. Karpenka Foundation and a member of Belarusian Helsinki Committee. The police officers Yawhen Beraziuk and Uladzimir Zhaludkow somehow did not like the T-shirt Siarhei was wearing. The T-shirt had a slogan "Elect. 09.09.2001". The policemen accused Siarhei in early agitation, called him a "nationalist' and tried to force the guy to take off the shirt. Siarhei refused to do so - and was taken to a police station. The police held him there for 25 minutes, and, having failed to find "corpus delicti", let him go.

On August 6 director of collective farm in village Navasiolki (Vetka district) Lubow Staravoitava ordered not to give a harvesting combine for harvesting crop from the private fields to Ihar Zhurawl (head of local Liberal Democrats) and his colleague Siarhei Fiadosenka. This way she "punished" them for collecting signatures in support of Gaidukevich, the leader of their party.

On August 7, at 8 a.m., Pinsk police detained Alexander Vasilyew, who was distributing the special issue of "Rabochy" newspaper near the building of city police office. The issue covered the case of the disappeared people in Belarus and published articles about the united candidate of opposition. He was released almost right away. The police officers only asked him to stand farther from the police building. Vasilyew went on the other side of the street. However, at 11 a.m. he was detained again. This time the policemen made him write an explanation note. Several months ago Alexander Vasilyew, who is not a member of any political party, was tried for 2 times in a row for publicly collecting signatures under the letter to Lukashenka. Then he was sentenced to 10 days of jail.

On August 7 Maladechna court judge Yawhen Kazlow canceled the fine to Zmitser Lapytska. Lapytska had been fined by administrative commission for distributing "Zubr" leaflets.

On August 8 Maladechna police detained 2 distributors of the special issue of "Nasha Svaboda" newspaper – 19-year-old Ihar Syrakvash and under-age Vasil Tsymanaw.

On August 9 Maladechna court judge Aleh Lahachow canceled the fine of Ihar Varabei. Administrative commission of city executive committee fined him 11,400 roubles for distribution of unregistered printed matter with Zubr logotype. The judge did not find proofs that the printed matter was an unregistered newspaper (it could be an advertising leaflet or poster).

On August 9 Homel police raided the private apartment of UCP member Yawhen Kazlow. When he came home, he was terrified: the door of his apartment was broken open, with a note on it: "Apply to police station#3 on Kastrychnik Ave. on the issue of opening". The note was signed by Savetski district police officer captain Pipchankow. The policemen explained that they had broken the door open because of the anonymous phone call about putrid smell. Kazlow's apartment is the legal address of Homel city and district branches of United Civic Party. Most probably, the police was looking for satirical newspaper "Buldozer" and other pre-election materials, which where distributed in Homel.

On August 10 Hrodna police arrested computer equipment of Hrodna NGO "Ratusha", which is headed by Siamion Domash. Siarhei Bucha, employee of region department for fighting economic crimes, explained that their goal was to check the legality of purchase of the equipment, used by "Ratusha". Two weeks before that "Ratusha" went through the similar check-up. This time the state control body drew up the report and confiscated 7 computers, copying-machine, and other equipment.

On August 13 at 4:25 p.m. in Homel 11 KGB officers came to the private house of Viktar Karniyenka, the chair of "Civic Initiative". They had a search warrant. There were witnesses during the search: students and a representative of the Chyhunachny district administration. Attorney Dzmitry Ivanishka had not been let into the house until the KGB officers were through with the search. As a result the KGB officers took away 6 computers, 3 printers, 1 Xerox machine, 1 scanner and 100 disks.

On August 13 in Minsk and Bialynichy the police confiscated over 24 000 copies of the special issue of "Narodnaya Vola" newspapers.

At 6.30 p.m. the police stopped the car of Valery Sivukha, chairperson of Mahilow regional branch of United Civic Party. Valery Sivukha was driving from Minsk with 18 400 copies of newspaper in his car, when he was stopped by a road police. After a short search in Zavadski district board of internal affairs, the police let him go. However, when Valery tried to exit Minsk again, the same policemen again detained him at the same place. This time they referred to the order they had just received. Valery was again taken to Zavadski DBIA, where police lieutenant Vital Hryharash confiscated all 18 400 copies of the special issue. By the way, in his report he did not give any reasons for confiscation. There is only a vague wording: "the confiscated commodity-material assets will be situated in Zavadski DBIA until a proper decision in accordance to the legislation of the Republic of Belarus is taken". Probably, they had to confiscate the newspaper, and then find a "legal" reason for that. The same was done with a FIAT, driven by Valery Sivukha. The police said that the car looks like the one in search and they need 10 days for checking. The same very evening at about 11 p.m. the police detained another car with 6 000 copies of "Narodnaya Vola" in Bialynichy. Uladzimir Shantsaw, chairperson of Mahilow branch of Lew Sapeha Foundation and Uladzimir Haidukow, chair of Mahilow city branch of UCP were in the car. In spite of the late evening, the head of the DBIA arrived to take care of the "dangerous" materials. As the result the police took away all the copies for "examination", as well as the document of sending observers to the polling stations and other printed materials. However, the police refused to give a copy of confiscation report to the drivers.

On August 14 Ales Masiuk, collector of signatures in support of Domash, was tried in Slonim. The court decided that Masiuk had violated legislation during signature collection and fined him 37,000 roubles. Let us remind you that on July 14 Ales Masiuk was detained in Slonim (a town in Hrodna region). Judging by all circumstances, he has been watched. The police took A. Masiuk to the local police board, confiscated signature lists and 4 certificates of the initiative group members. One of the signature lists had people's signatures but it had no name of the person, who they had put their signatures for. The election commission talked with all the people who signed the list. Although all of them had confirmed that they signed for Domash, the court decided that this was still a violation of the legislation.

On August 14 head of Domash Ashmiany district initiative group Piotr Yavidovich was summoned to district tax committee, which demanded to again fill in last and this years' income declaration. Besides that, recently Ashmiany court resumed consideration of the case against Yavidovich, which was started during parliamentary election of 2000 (for distribution of "Businessman" information bulletin).

On August 14 at about 10 p.m. Vitebsk police detained local members of Zubr: Maryna Kaminskaya, Kiryl Mineyew, and under-age Ihar Alshanka by the building of the Vitebsk executive committee. The police officers jumped out of the bushes at the moment when the young guys came up to the building to examine the sticker on the wall of the official building. The girl and a boy were taken to the Kastrychnitski district police station. During the search two empty spray cans and a full one, and more than a hundred stickers "Time to clean up!" were found in the bag of Ihar Alshanka. He was charged with "illegal dissemination of printed production without information on the publisher, which is meant to damage the state and social system, lawful rights and well-being of citizens."

On August 15 Baranavichy policemen and KGB agents raided the private house of Alena Yushkevich, member of the local branch of Social Democratic Hramada. She was absent during the search, which was conducted only in the presence of her under-age children, and ill mother. The thing is, that Alena's children had been distributing the Russian newspaper "President", which covered the political situation in Belarus. The law-enforcers found that a transgression of the law. The police officers and KGB agents neither introduced themselves, nor showed their IDs. When Alena Yushkevich came home, the house had been already searched. She was proposed to sign the paper that she agreed for the search to be conducted. The policemen confiscated 25 copies of "President" newspaper and put Mrs. Yushkevich on record.

On August 16 the Ministry of Justice of Belarus spread the information that mass media informs the audience that a non-registered association "Independent Monitoring" is going to observe election committees' work and perform Parallel Vote Tabulation in order to publicize election results September 10th 2001. On this case the Ministry of Justice of Belarus reminds citizens that activity on behalf of non-registered organizations is an administrative violation and "independent observers' supposed activity violates the Belarusian Legislation". Lately, the Ministry of Justice spread another information about illegal independent public observers' actions, scaring them by administrative and criminal punishment. In reaction to this statement independent observers resolutely protested and reminded that all the activity within independent observation campaign is performed within the Legislation of the Republic of Belarus and is directed to make election process more democratic, public and transparent. "Independent Monitoring" filed proper statements to the Ministry of Justice and personally to Minister H. Varantsow.

On August 16 Vitebsk police detained 6 Zubr members, who were distributing pre-election stickers. The detained were taken to Kastrychnitski DBIA. The under age detainees were interrogated in the absence of their parents or any other people who

could represent their interests. All the detainees were accused of violation of the administrative legislation, because they had been posting stickers in improper places.

On August 17 Barysaw police detained 7 Zubr activists. The police found a few stickers in the pocket of one of the teenagers. This was the ground for detention of all of them. Zubr activists were kept in police station for 7 hours. They were released only after writing explanatory notes.

On August 17, three Barysaw policemen, armed with tommy-guns, detained head of Barysaw Social Democratic Hramada leader Alesia Yasiuk, right at the doors of her house. They found anti-Lukashenka stickers "Time to Clean Up!" on her. In the police station they tried to make her sign the explanation note, but she refused to do that.

On August 17 Svetlahorsk judge Iryna Aliseika fined Alaksei Kozentsaw 5 minimal wages. Alaksei Kozentsaw was collecting signatures in support of Siamion Domash. He was accused of forgery of one signature. Alaksei Kozentsaw is the head of the Free Trade Union of the biggest factory in the town.

On August 17 soldier patrol of Belarusian Internal Forces detained Alaksei Shydlowski and Zubr press-secretary Alexander Atroshchankaw only because they were wearing "Time to Clean Up!" T-shirts.

On August 17, 23-year-old Ales Vaskovich from Maryina Horka informed "Viasna": "They detain me 3 times a week, just at the moment I leave my house, they are there to detain me". According to Ales Vaskovich, the events go exactly the same way: he leaves his house with mobilization leaflets ("Choose!" campaign) and is immediately detained by the police. They draw up a report of confiscation and confiscate all the leaflets. Last week this happened 3 times. On August 17 sixteen-year-old Mikalai Kurbaka joined Ales Vaskovich and the police detained both of them.

In the evening of August 17 Hlybokaye police detained Zubr members Tatsiana Marozava and Andrei Palukhin. They were detained for wearing "Zubr" T-shirts, and for having, ostensibly, stickers "Time to Clean Up!".

On August 19 Centralny district police detained 5 members of Young Front: Alaksei Talstow, Vital Koshalew, Paval Yankowski, Kastus Zmitryevich, and under age Ales Vasilewski. They were detained for participation in "Stop Luka" action. Young Front members thing that the reason for detaining them wear their anti-Lukashenka T-shirts.

On August 20, in Brest five activists of ZUBR were detained distributing the special issue of the newspaper "Nasha Svaboda". Three underage boys Khatyniuk, Haroshka and

Kruk, who even did not participate in the activity were among the detainees. They were taken to the police station and then to the Leninski department of Internal Affairs, were the reports were drawn. Palina Panasiuk and Andrei Zalatar are charged with the unauthorized picketing of the military division. As for other detainees, police summoned their parents. The reports on article 162, part 1 of the Administrative Code (negligence of the parental responsibilities) were drawn.

On August 20 Vitebsk police detained Ludmila Tserashonkava, member of BPF, and seven activists of ZUBR resistance movement. Ludmila Tserashonkava, a pensioner, was detained for passing out "Rabochy" newspaper, and newsletters "The Right to Freedom" and "Choose!" The police confiscated 95 copies of the issues. Tserashonkava was put on record, the police officers threatened her that she would be fined 10 minimal wages (more than her monthly pension). They added: "She must be happy, that it's not 1937 now. Then she would crawl on the floor and lick our boots". Zubrs were given away by an "honest citizen", who saw their group from the balcony and called for police. About 8 p.m. the police came, found stickers in their possessions and arrested them. Kiryl Volkaw, Alexander Sukhadolaw, Ihar Alshanka, Yoran Maksimaw, Dzmitry Semenkow, Dzmitry Kalashnikaw and Dzmitry Rabakon were detained. After a regular procedure of clarification of personality and stickers' confiscation they were let go.

On August 21, at about 14 o'clock the head of PA "Belarusian Voters' Club" Uladzimir Gudzeew was violently searched by members of Tax Investigation police. "Belarusian Voters' Club" office's key was confiscated and the office's door opened. The office is the headquarters of the Central Coordination Council for election monitoring. After that all the office equipment (part of it belongs to AMG OSCE) was confiscated. All the equipment was returned to the owners when the election was over.

On August 21 Anatol Fiodaraw, member of Mahilow Initiative Group of Gancharyk, and Avanes Muradian, region coordinator of "Independent Monitoring" were stopped on their way from Minsk to Mahilow. They had posters of the united candidate of opposition Gancharyk in their car. Head of Mahilow Belarusian Popular Front Anatol Fiodaraw thinks the car was stopped because of that.

In the night of August 21-22 Mahilow policemen detained 2 members of Mahilow "Maladaya Hramada" Andrei Kacharowski and Hanna Ziuzina for posting Gancharyk's posters. In the police station they were accused of spoiling the walls. The police confiscated the glue and let them go.

On August 23 in Village Halubitsa of Petrykaw district the police detained Zmitser Karpenka and Dzianis Chykileyew for distributing stickers “Time to Clean Up!”. Both guys

are members of the unregistered youth movement "Zubr". Police chief Yatskavets and KGB officer Siarhei Kiryenka were personally dealing with the detained. Having taken the stickers and personal belongings of the guys away, they kept them in the police station for the whole night. The police accused Zmitser Karpenka in distributing the printed materials without outcome data (article 173 part 2 of the Code of Administrative Offences).

On August 23, The authorities of Belarus deported American citizen Robert Fielding. INTERFAX agency, referring to the Information and Public Relations Center of KGB, reports that the reason for deportation was the "activities, which interfere in the inner affairs of the country". The employee of one of the American trade union centers is accused in open agitation for the single candidate from the broad civic coalition Uladzimir Gancharyk. The KGB representatives state that Robert Fielding publicly announced that the international structures did not recognize the current authorities and "coordinated the preparation of the opposition to get the needed result of the presidential election".

Robert Fielding was prohibited to enter Belarus for 5 years. KGB stated that "any efforts to interfere with the inner affairs of the country by the foreign citizens – no matter what status they have – will be stopped, even if it means deportation from the country".

On August 24 the Ministry of Justice spread their third statement about the activities of "Independent Monitoring", in particular IM intention to conduct Parallel Vote Tabulation. The Ministry of Justice accused "Independent Monitoring" of "controlling the activity of the election commissions and people's will, which is prohibited by the Constitution and the Election Code". The Ministry said: "The PVT System is conducted in some states, but in the frames of the national legislation, and it's significantly different from the one, proposed by the opposition. Moreover, observer's power are described in Art. 13 of the Election Code, which does not provide for questioning voters either before or after they voted". The Ministry of Justice called political parties, NGOs and citizens to "strictly observe the election legislation of the Republic of Belarus".

On August 24 major Uladzimir Markets started the check-up of Rechytsa office of "Civic Initiatives". He did that on the order of head of Rechytsa department of financial police Mikalai Maiseyenka. The order, based on Decree 8, determines the term of the check-up: Augut23 – September 23. The checkers are especially interested, who the owner of the office equipment is. The thing is, that "Civic Initiatives" and its district branches are the coordination centers of "Independent Monitoring". Police and KGB try

to hamper their activity. It is even more obvious, if we take into account the check-up at Zhlobin office of "Civic Initiatives".

On August 24 Savetski Court of Minsk fined Ihar Siuld, member of Zubr movement, 2 minimal wages. He was detained for wearing Zubr T-shirt. Later he police found stickers and a few copies of "Nasha Svaboda" newspaper. The police drew up record of "disorderly conduct". Ihar was kept in detention center for almost 24 hours.

On August 26 the police raided the private house of Maria Ihnatsenka, who lived in village Koitanava (Petrykava district). She is the mother of Vasil Ihnatsenka, member of Gancharyk's headquarters. The policemen did not show their Ids or the search warrant. They confiscated 50 boxes with T-shirts, which had the slogan "Say NO to the Fool!"

In Babruisk on August 26 the police detained Gancharyk’s volunteers Viktar Kachan and Katsiaryna L. (18) were taken to police and made to give explanations only because they were dressed in T-shirts with the slogan “For New Belarus!”. It’s interesting that V. Hrabniow, deputy head of the city authorities, personally interrogated the detained. The police made the detained (even the girl) to take off the T-shirts. However they didn’t draw up any reports of 3-hour detention or seizure of the personal belongings.

On August 26 a group of youth walked down town Navapolatsk, handing out mobilization posters “Choose”, “Fashion 2001” and oranges to the passers-by. About 7.10 p.m. they were near the store Ivushka, when 3 police cars arrived. The policemen, one of them with automatic gun, looked through the distribution materials, searched the bag of one of the girls (Vera Lipskaya) and took the young people to the police station. The police detained 5 people, one of them is a Polish citizen. In the police station the policemen checked the documents of the detained and “had a conversation” with them, saying that the people, who distribute stickers and write on walls would be fined 10 minimal wages. After that a major – the officer on duty, released the activists. The following people have been detained: Vera Lipskaya, Viktar Yakubaw, Mikhail Arlow, Aleh Abbiazaw, Dawid Monko (citizen of Poland).

On August 27 special police forces detained member of Christian Conservative Party Uladzimir Pleshchanka. He stood in the center of Vitebsk with a poster: "Vote against everybody! In 3 months there will be elections without Lukashenka!"

On August 27 Svetlahorsk judge Iryna Aliseika fined member of "Maladaya Hramada" Siarhei Hardziyevich 150 minimal wages for organization of "unauthorized youth meeting" on the square near the building of the city administration. Young people played guitars and sang near 2 self-made posters: "September 9 – let president retire".

The second poster pictured fish bones with a slogan: "It didn't have a voice. You do. Come and vote!"

On August 27 the private apartment of Alena Lapeshka, teacher and activist of Gancharyk's headquarters, was raided in Brest. A big group of armed people, 5 of them in masks, burst in the apartment. Alena Lapeshka was absent at the moment. Her brother Mikhas Rudzko opened the door and was immediately pushed aside by the strangers. Mikola Novik, reporter of Radio "Baltic Waves" was there as well. He was hand-cuffed. A person, dressed in police uniform, said that they had ostensibly received anonymous information, that there was weapon in that apartment. Then the strangers started the search. Alena Lapeshka came home. She was taken to one of the rooms and ordered not to leave that room. All her questions about the legality of their actions and reasons for the search were left without answer. The weapon search stopped immediately after they found pre-election posters and booklets of Gancharyk and the special issue of Russian newspaper "President". Having looked through this printed material, the searchers found out that the materials had been produced in accordance to the legislation and has output data. The next day it was revealed that nobody applied for the search warrant to Leninski district prosecutor's office, which is responsible for the neighborhood.

On August 30 head of Ashmiany office of Gancharyk's headquarters Piotr Yavidovich was detained and taken to police station for pre-election agitation on the square opposite the town administration building. In 3 hours after he had started agitation, a police car came and he was taken to police station. The policemen tried to accuse him of picketing and confiscated agitation stand. They informed him that next time all agitation materials would be confiscated as well.

On August 30 we got the information that the Belarusian Embassy in Sweden refused a visa for “the time being” for Erik Esbjomson, a representative of the Swedish Helsinki Committee. This is not the first case– recently the same happened to Marlous Veldt, activist of LSVb, the National Student Union in Netherlands, who planned to visit Belarus on the invitation of “Viasna”. We have all the grounds to think that “the time being”, during which the Belarusian Embassies refuse visas on the invitations of non-governmental organizations, will continue at least till the presidential election.

On August 30 In Hlybokaye the police detained 2 Zubr members: Zmitser Lupach and Zmitser Kurtsevich. Zmitser Lupach and Zmitser Kurtsevich were detained in Hlybokaye (Vitebsk region) while distributing stickers. The police drew up the reports and confiscated some of the stickers, but only those, which pictured a person, looking like Lukashenka. They returned the stickers with the slogan: “Time to Clean Up!”

On August 31, at about 1 p.m. Babruisk police detained Gancharyk's supporters Iryna Kachan, Tatsiana Mashkowskaya and Vadzim Lisowski. The policemen explained to them that they did not have a right to agitate, the picketers did not agree. Then they were detained for distribution of election materials. About 120 copies of "The Rights to Freedom" was confiscated. Babruisk policemen drew up records for distribution of the editions with harmful contents and released the picketers. On September 7 Iryna was fined 37.5 thousand roubles, Tatsiana – 21,5 thousand roubles.

On September 1 in Maryina Horka the police detained Sviatlana Kurhanovich, Vadzim Bahanik and Ruslan Ustsimenka. All of the detained have been participating in the picket in support of the united democratic candidate. The Vaskovich family(the father Vasil Vaskovich and 2 sons Ales Vaskovich (23) and Zmitser Vaskovich (19)) went to the police station to find out what had happened to the people who had been detained. There were ten young people in front of the police station supporting the detained. All the negotiations with the police resulted in the arrest of the Vaskovich family. Ales Vaskovich was dragged into the police station. The policemen also handcuffed Vasil and Zmitser Vaskovich and took them into the station as well. Now the Vaskovichs will have to stand trial. They are accused by the terms of Article 166 of the Code of Administrative Offences (disobedience to the police) and Article 167.1 (violation of the regulations of organizing and conducting rallies, pickets, and street marches).

On September 1 the police detained V. Krawchanka, Slawharad district coordinator of "Independent Monitoring". Krawchanka have been kept in the police station for 8 hours. The police drew up the record under Art. 167.3 of the Code of Administrative Offences (violation of the election legislation). The court ruled a not-guilty verdict.

On September 1 Brest policemen beat Siarhei Vakulenka for having agitation materials, dedicated to the election. The incident took place in one of Brest branches of "Belarusbank", where workers of "Tsvetatron" plant receive their salaries. There was a big line near the cash-desk. The workers started to begrudge that they were loosing so much time. Mr. Vakulenka, an activist of the Free Trade Union, advised to propose the plant administration to improve the system of salary payment, so that the workers could receive their salaries in their neighborhood bank offices. The policeman, who was guarding the bank, did not like Vakulenka's speech for some reason. He also didn't like the fact that Vakulenka had pre-election materials in his hands. The policeman tried to detain Vakulenka on his own. When he failed to do that, he called for police detail. Together they managed to force Vakulenka into the car and took him to police station. Vakulenka was accused of disobedience to police and conduction unauthorized meeting. The policemen confiscated 188 leaflets in support of Gancharyk, and 55 copies of the

appeal to the voters to come to the polls on September 9, and not earlier. Siarhei Vakulenka was released in 2,5 hours.

On September 2 in Babruisk the police detained 5 people for distribution of leaflets in support of the single democratic candidate from the broad civic coalition Gancharyk. Hleb Bukhavets, Siarhei Pantsikaw, Alexander Makarevich and under age Kiryl Rybkin and Valantsin Besmen have been detained. The police kept them in the police station for 2 hours and finally drew up the reports by the terms of article 172 part 3 of the Code of the Administrative Offences (distribution of the printed materials without output data). It's worth mentioning that the leaflets had been printed as agitation materials of the candidate and have official output data.

On September 2 in Babruisk the police detained Siarhei Akvitski for posting posters of the candidate for the Presidential position from the wide public coalition Uladzimir Gancharyk in the place, specially arranged for posting the promotion materials. The policemen drew up the report where they stated they had detained Akvitski for the violation of Article 172 Part 3 of the Code of Administrative Offences (distribution of the printed materials without the imprint). It's worth mentioning that the posters had been printed in full accordance with the Electoral Law and contained the imprint.

On September 2 in Kobryn (Brest region) the police detained the underage Zmitser Charnitski (13 y.o.), Ivan Kiryewski and Mikalai Salei (both 4th grade students). The guys were detained when they were posting election posters. The police took the boys to the police station where colonel Siarhei Syedzin, the chief of the town police, personally interrogated them. The main question was who they got the posters from. The boys were not allowed to call their parents, they were intimidated. The police threatened to "put them in jail for a day to different cells". In 2 hours the kids were released.

On September 3, in Minsk, the police detained Ivan Sayevich near the building of Economic faculty of Belarusian State University. Ivan Sayevich was wearing a T-shirt with "Long Live Belarus" slogan. He was taken to the police point and proposed to choose: either he changes his clothes right away, or he leaves the building with naked chest. Finally he was made to put the shirt on inside out. The police convoyed him till the very metro station.

On September 3 Maskowski district police detained supporters of U. Gancharyk, who were conducting a picket on Independence Square. Ales Straltsow, Zmitser Kozel, Anatol Ivashchanka and Siarhei Mastowski were released after the policemen had

warned them about "inadmissibility of agitation for Lukashenka's rival on the main square of the city".

On September 4 head of Zhodzina financial police Konanaw came to the apartment of Alaksei Lapitski, chair of the local BLS branch. Konanaw and colleague showed the order of deputy Prosecutor General to conduct examination of financial activities of BLS (Belarusian Language Society). They demanded for computer documents for equipment. Later Zhodzina KGB head Piatrovich and an employee of the Department for Fighting Economic Crimes also came to the apartment. Lapitski explained that BLS does not conduct economic activities, and the computers belong to his wife, Sviatlana Lapitskaya. Having examined the computers and the documents, the uninvited guests left.

On September 5 the deputy-head of Kiraw district executive committee, who is the head of the headquarters for preparation for election, L. D. Smagin and A. S. Korshak, the head of District Department for Public Education threatened teachers L. Y. Horbal and K. G. Shamatranow that they would be fired and their salaries would be decreased. The reason for that is that Mr. Horbal and Mr. Shamatranow are independent election observers.

On September 5, in Sakolichy village (Krychaw district) 2 men came up to an observer on polling station #18, when she was on her way home. They recommended not to observe election any more, because "it could end badly for her".

On September 5 Zinaida Nikitsina, her husband and 2 children, who all are independent observers (polling station # 20, Smilavichy), were called by the administration of Agriculture college, where they all work. College principal, N. Pilui, told Alexander Nikitsin: «You are above the age of retirement. You must rest. I think you can't work in such an age. From now on you don't work in our college anymore». Lilia and Vital Nikitsins, who also teach in the college, were officially warned for «anti-state activities». The principal explained that «anti-state activity» of the Nikitsins was their «participation in the system of independent observation and, thus, disruption of the constitutional order of the country». N. Pilui told the Nikitsins that «he informed the proper bodies about their activities, which will deal with them after election». Later the college principal called Valantsina Kukharonak (independent observer on polling station #27). She was accused of distribution of newspapers in the college dormitory.

On September 5 two of the three observers, registered on Zybchanski polling station # 21 (Kastsiukovichy district) refused to be observers (L. Shmatkow and S.Stsiabunow). Shmatkow explained that head of the election commission A. Miadvednikaw put psychological pressure upon him, threatening that he would use his personal relations in

the city executive committee to fire him from work. Stsiabunow was pressured by director of the local forestry V. Tsiareshchanka, who threatened to fire him.

September 5, 2001, at 5 p.m. at polling station #1, (Technical School # 80, Cherven) Henadz Matusevich, "Independent Observation" representative, was arrested and transferred to the district board for internal affairs, where he was interrogated and searched. Some copies "Appeal to MIA employees", found in Henadz's bag, were confiscated. After drawing up a report Matusevich was released at 8 p.m..

On September 5 the police detained Siarhei Daineka and Alaksei Petukhow for posting the stickers “Lukashenka Is Poverty”. The policemen took the detainees to a police station and kept them there till 3 a.m. The police confiscated all the stickers and composed reports registering the violation of Article 172 Part 1 of the Code of Administrative Offences (violation of the law on Press and other Mass Media). The same very evening in Svetlahorsk the police detained Alexander Torash and Siarhei Zhuro for the distribution of the independent periodicals with the articles devoted to the upcoming Presidential election and confiscated the newspapers. The detainees’ cases were directed to the administrative commission at Svetlahorsk Town Executive Committee.

On September 6 Kobryn police searched the flat rented by a member of HRC Viasna Stanislaw Charnitski. At first the policemen explained their visit by the check-up of the passport regime, then searched the flat. As a result they confiscated 6 000 copies of Siamion Domash’s appeal to the electorate.

On September 6 a stranger telephoned independent observer H. Sys (polling station #12 of Chyhunachny district of Vitebsk). The stranger started to threaten her with difficulties at work and in family. Independent observer A. Ilevich (polling station #10 of Chyhunachny district of Vitebsk) was called to the personnel department of his factory and was warned about possible consequences of his participation in observation.

On September 6 15 policemen burst into the office of Mahilow branch of Lew Sapeha Foundation. Giving no reasons and no explanations, they confiscated all the office equipment. The policemen didn’t bother to tell Uladzimir Shantsaw, the chair of the branch, where they were taking the equipment to. Three computers and a fax machine are confiscated. The same very day in Shklow the police confiscated all the equipment and all the print run of “Shklowskiya Naviny” (Shklow News) newspaper from the regional office of “National Voter’s Club”. A computer, a printer, a scanner, a fax-machine were confiscated.

On September 6 the police detained 6 Young Front members near the office of Mahilow Belarusian Popular Front. Yury Abakumaw, Alexander Rudnitski, Mikita Nastsevich, Uladzimir Puskin and Alexander Laikow were taken to police station. Young people were accused of distribution of stickers and leaflets. In 3 hours they were released.

On September 6 in Minsk Anton Arkhipaw was arrested and taken to the Soviet district board of internal affairs. The ground for the arrest was the fact that Anton called upon students of Belarusian State Polytechnic Academy not to take part in the early voting. He suggested the students should eat pasta "Rolton" instead of voting, which he hanged out to the students.

In the afternoon of September 7 Alaksei Halich, Savetski district of Minsk observation coordinator received the information that the election commission was trying to remove Ales Dziamyanenka from polling station # 61. Ales Dziamyanenka was an observer from Belarusian language Society. Alaksei Halich came to the polling station and tried to find out the reason for the removal of the observer. Andrei Radyna the head of the election commission behaved very aggressively. When he saw Halich's press-card, he just tore it apart, and called for police. The policemen of Savetski DBIA drew up a report under article 156 of the Code of Administrative Offences (disorderly conduct) and took Halich to the police station. Alaksei Halich spent the night in police station and was put to a detention center to wait for the trial. Savetski district is left without coordinator.

On September 7 the representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the Prosecution Office contacted the member of the board of "Lew Sapeha Foundation", the coordinator of the parallel vote tabulation program Miraslaw Kobasa. He was informed that they were to conduct a planned inspection of the organization's activity. Having arrived they were interested in an absolutely different thing: in the list of observers, nominated by the NGO. But Kobasa refused to open the office and to show them the observers' list, referring to the fact that he had not such powers (according to the statute of the NGO). When journalists started to appear at the office, the Ministry of Justice and of the Prosecution office representatives left, having said noting about the possible future events. Mr. Kobasa thinks, that this story will get its continuation soon.

On September 7 Mahilow Central District Procurator's office started to pressure the activists of "Zubr", "Young Front" and participants of the Get Out the Vote campaign. Zmitser Bukataw, Mikita Radzikaw, D. Lutaw, Kaleta, Pashkevich and Pawlovich were warned for the electioneering for the candidate on the Presidential position Uladzimir Gancharyk.

On September 7 the police detained the independent observer Ihar Kryvaruchanka near polling station No. 17 in Voranava district of Hrodna region and took him away in an unknown direction. The previous day he was expelled from the polling station for taking an interest in the early voters' numbers.

On September 7 Slawharad police detained head of Mahilow branch of Belarusian Helsinki Committee U. Krawchanka and Slawharad district coordinator of "Independent Monitoring" V. Meleshkevich. They were trying to collect information about the lists of voters in this district. The police kept them in police station for 8 hours. They were accused of administrative violation under article 167-3. On September 8 Slawharad district court closed the case because of lack of corpus delicti in the actions of U. Krawchanka and V. Meleshkevich.

On September 7 in Shklow the police detained coordinator of "Independent Observation" Alexander Fiodaraw and observer Uladzimir Osipaw.

On September 7 Shklow coordinator of "Independent Monitoring" Piotr Mihurski was summoned to prosecutor's office. At 8 p.m. this day 6 armed people in police uniform knocked on his doors. They refused to introduce themselves and to name the reason for such a late visit. Mihurski did not let them to the house and called to police and to prosecutor's office. Prosecutor Snitkow said it was him who had given the order to convey Mihurski to the prosecutor's office. Piotr Mihurski went there on his own. I. Snitkow accused Piotr of violating article 192 of the Criminal Code (forgery, breaking the secrecy of voting, purposely incorrect counting of votes…, committed by a member of election commission, election commission, or other person, which legitimately participates in preparation and realization of election…is punished by a fine or depriving of a right to take some posts, or corrective labor for up to 2 years, or imprisonment for up to 5 years". Valantsin Stefanovich, lawyer of "Viasna" comments: "This article provides for responsibility only of people, who are participating in preparation and realization of election. Observer is not an official person". The next day the car of Piotr Mihurski was stopped by armed policemen and convoyed him to prosecutor's office again. This time he was shown a search warrant and forced to give a recognizance not to leave the town. The police searched Mihurski's house. In spite of the fact, that he repeatedly receives phone calls with threats, Piotr Mihurski is not going to hide. He plans to protect his interests in court.

In the evening of September 7 in Krychaw the authorities turned off the phones in "Independent Monitoring" office and the office of "Contact-Center" NGO, which actively participated in monitoring.

On September 8 the special forces policemen detained "NRM" rock-group member Pit Pawlaw and Tamara Matskevich near the Sports Palace in Minsk. Together with a group of teenagers, they were going to fly kites with Get Out the Vote campaign symbols. At the same time the police detained over 10 under age participants of the action, who were wearing orange T-shirts. During detention the policemen severely beat under age Maksim Baikow. All of the detained were taken to Centralny police station.

On September 8 observers of PA "Human Center "Viasna" are deprived of the accreditation. The chairperson of "Human Rights Center "Viasna" Ales Bialatski was telegrammed to come to the Central Election Committee. At the meeting of CEC he was given 4 applications of people from Hlybokaye, Navahrudak and Svetlahorsk districts, where they write, that they were not informed about their nomination as observers from PA "Viasna". By their words they are not even the members of this organization. At its meeting CEC decided to cancel the registration of all observers, nominated by "Viasna". It means that more than 1500 observers, who have conducted observation for five days, lost their status. Despite of this the independent observation campaign will continue, because about 10 000 observers still have their accreditation. Yesterday "Human Rights Center "Viasna" received a letter from the Ministry of Justice, dated by August 31. The letter demands to send all the reports about the organization's activity, including all minutes of the nomination its members to the election observation, to the Ministry of Justice in two weeks term (it means till September 14). When the reports were getting ready, the above-mentioned events took place. Some more organizations - "Lew Sapeha Foundation" and "Free Trade Union" received demands to give reports about the organizations' members nomination to the election observation today till 17 o'clock. In other case they will have the destiny of "Viasna".

On September 8 independent observer Miatselitsa from Bialynichy (Mahilow region) was informed about the court verdict on his case. Miatselitsa was sentenced to 15 days of jail for having conducted 4 seminars for observers in his private apartment. On the 10th day of his being in jail, the policemen searched his garage and found stickers of "Zubr" movement. These stickers became the reason for accusing Miatselitsa of "participation in anti-state activities, insulting honor and dignity of the president of the Republic of Belarus". A criminal case was initiated. Now Miatselitsa is waiting for another trial, this time – on a criminal case.

On September 8 Mahilow police burst into the room, where the meeting of observers was going on. About 100 observers were present at the meeting. 25 of them were detained and taken to a police station. In a few hours the policemen released all of them without any records.

On September 8 in Kobryn (Brest Region) the police detained the 8th grader Viktar Zalashchuk for posting a sticker “Time to Clean Up”. During all the time he was in the police station the policemen threatened the boy saying that they would send him to a reformatory school. They asked the boy who had given him the stickers. He answered that it was an unknown youngster in the street. The interrogation lasted for 5 hours. Only then the police allowed Viktar to phone his elder brother. When the brother came, the policemen proposed him to give them a bottle of vodka and 15 000 rubles for the discharge of Viktar Zalashchuk. No reports were drawn up.

On September 8 criminal charges were brought against independent observer Piotr Mihurski. Shklow district prosecution charged Piotr with violating article 192 of the Criminal Code (on elections, referendums and calling off MPs). Under this article one can be responsible for forgery, breaking the secrecy of voting, purposely incorrect counting of votes, etc. Observer Piotr Mihurski is accused of presenting incorrect documents for registration. Even if it was true, he should bear only administrative responsibility. Lawyer Siarhei Tsurko comments the situation: “This is an obvious pressure on the observers. The authorities aim at not registering one part of observers, and threatening the other part”.

On September 9 about 600 observers of Hrodna region, nominated by "Lew Sapeha Foundation" were deprived of accreditation. This was the decision of Hrodna region election commission. Representatives of "Lew Sapeha Foundation" in other regions observed the election without obstacles.

On September 9 coordinators of “Independent Monitoring” in Hrodna Siarhei Malchyk and Sviatlana Nekh, as well as observers from some other NGOs were called to KGB for interrogation. They were kept there until the end of the voting. Law enforcement bodies threaten to initiate criminal cases against Hrodna coordinators Siarhei Malchyk and Sviatlana Nekh.

On September 9 at 8.30 p.m. vote counting started at polling station # 11 (located in school #8, Maladechna). The observers from the power structures left the room, having, probably, decided that their work was over. Nela Shloida, an observer from Belarusian Popular Front, stayed in the room. She was practically kicked out of the room. After long conversations Nela Shloida was allowed to come back, but she was given such a seat, that she couldn’t see the counting process. Later in the evening the authorities turned off the phones in the apartments of observers Nela Shloida and Ales Kaputski.

On September 9 Hanna Vasilchanka (the wife of Vasil Vasilchanka, coordinator of independent observation) said that her husband had disappeared in the evening of September 5. She called to Klimavichy DBIA, but the policemen refused to say where her husband was, saying they didn't want to get fired. Before V. Vasilchanka had been beaten by head of Klimavichy administration V. Kanavalaw for trying to hand in a complaint to the district election commission. Only later it was revealed that V. Vasilchanka was still in DBIA for unknown reasons.

On September 9 at 2 p.m. I. Snitkow, Shklow district prosecutor, interrogated Shklow observation coordinator S. Mihurski. S. Mihurski was interrogated without a lawyer present. The reason for interrogation was criminal charges, brought against Mihurski under article 192 of the criminal code. "Independent Monitoring" coordinator was accused of "falsifying documents of observers' nomination". OSCE observer Mark Dillen was present during interrogation.

On September 9 Uladzimir Krawchanka, reporter of "Tydniovik Mahilowski" independent newspaper, visited the polling station of Slawharad city hospital. Head of election commission Kuzmenka informed him that they did not have any lists of voters. She also said that head of district election commission ordered her not to give any information either to journalists, or to observers. V. Bialova, head of district election commission, confirmed that she had given such an order and said that she took all responsibility for violation of election legislation on herself. Krawchanka went to Slawharad prosecutor's office. Opening the doors of district prosecutor's room, he heard a loud conversation. Slawharad district prosecutor was refusing to receive any appeals from observers about election violation, using foul language. Here prosecutor Kupreichykaw saw a dictaphone in the hands of Krawchanka, and demanded to give him the tape. The journalist refused to do that, explaining that the dictaphone is his private property. In 2 hours the road police stopped Krawchanka's car near the town market and informed him that they had been ordered to deliver the car to Slawharad police station. In the police station police chief A. Baldyshewski, in the presence of district prosecutor Kupreichykaw, suggested that the journalist should give them the dictaphone. When refused, he ordered to start a search in his car. In the car the policemen found a folder with documents, which belonged to the journalist's friend Meleshkevich. Krawchanka and his friend were kept in the police station for 2 hours. Then the police drew up reports on far-fetched charges and took them to court. The judge returned all their private belonging to them.

On September 9 at 8 a.m. 11 observers from "Belarusian Voter's Club" and Human Rights Center "Viasna", who had come from Babruisk and registered in Hlusk district

polling stations, were denied accreditation. Instead, they were detained by Hlusk police and taken to the district police station, together with the drivers of private cars, who drove them to Hlusk from Babruisk. There were women among observers, they were interrogated and searched. The policemen conducted personal searches without records being made and without witnesses. The drivers, who took observers to Hlusk, were charged with illegal private carrier's trade. After 2 hours of interrogation and car searches, the policemen drew up reports of administrative violation. This is how the police managed to break observation on 6 polling stations of Hlusk district.

On September 9, the authorities switched off all sites, that intended to monitor presidential elections in Belarus. As a result, sites of independent mass media, information agencies, Human Rights Center "Viasna", and "Independent Monitoring" could not be reached. The authorities switched off phones and faxes in the offices of all organizations, which participated in election observation. Besides that, apartment phones and mobile phones of "Independent Monitoring" coordinators were switched off. The journalists, who were in the press-center of "Independent Monitoring" found that their mobiles did not work as well.

On September 10 Kobryn district coordinator of "Independent Monitoring" was summoned to tax inspection for examination of activities of "Viasna" branch.

Immediately after the election H. Samoilenka, an observer of "Independent Monitoring" from Zhabinka, received a strict reprimand from his chief for active participation in the election.

On the 8th day of serving the sentence in the police jail, Klimavichy district coordinator of "Independent Monitoring" Vasil Vasilchanka got to Mahilow regional hospital. Policemen had to release the observer, when his ear started to suppurate, and his health condition became acute. Vasilchanka served his sentence in very bad conditions. That's how Vasilchanka described the jail: "I was put in one cell together with criminals. Six people were living on 5 square meters. We were sleeping in shifts, it was extremely cold. All other prisoners smoked, and I can hardly stand the very smell of tobacco". Vasil Vasilchanka was accused of disorderly conduct. He was sentenced to 10 days of jail right after he had registered beating in Mahilow hospital. He was beaten by the head of local administration Uladzimir Kanavalaw. It was during observation, when the local official beat Vasilchanka, in the presence of witnesses, so hard, that his ear-drum broke. All clinics in Klimavichy refused to conduct medical expert examination. Vasilchanka had to go to Mahilow to be able to undergo medical examination, which registered beating. However, on his return to Klimavichy "witnesses" appeared who

stated that he had been swearing and bothering passers-by. It's worth mentioning, that the same accusations are brought against Vasilchanka's wife. However, the court hasn't announced its verdict yet: she felt bad during the trial and got to local hospital with "hypertension" diagnosis".

On September 12 Kastrychnitski district juvenile delinquency commission in Vitebsk made the following verdicts on the cases of the teenagers, who had taken an active part in the election campaign: the mother of Stsiapan Tsishutsin – fined 1 minimal wage; Zmitser Kalashnikaw, Ales Sukhadolaw, and Ihar Alshanka got official warnings (in addition, Ihar Alshanka was transferred from specialized humanitarian school to ordinary school in his district). The cases of Kiryl Volkaw and Ales Horski were postponed, because their parents did not appear for the meeting. The meetings were led by Paval Losich, one of the leaders of the local communist party, who worked in Lukashenka's headquarters during the election campaign.

On September 13 Neli Shloida, Maladechna coordinator of "Independent Monitoring", became unemployed. Minsk leadership of "Unifarm" company fired her from a job of Maladechna drugstore manager.

In the middle of September, right after the election, Tamara Kot, member of Belarusian Helsinki Committee, started to experience pressure. She was a doctor of Berazina health center. Chief doctor of the health center Uladzimir Varonin accused her of neglecting the clients, who were planning to vote for Lukashenka, and agitating the people to vote against the incumbent.

On September 14 Zmitser Baryshnikaw and Aleh Butsanets, election observers, were attacked in Babruisk. After the election they were conducting a door-to-door poll in Pershamaiski district of Babruisk. They were questioning the people who voted on polling station # 79. They put the poll results in a folder. About 8 p.m. 3 men came up to them. Judging by their body-build and behavior, the men were from KGB or similar structures. When observing the election, Zmitser Baryshnikaw saw one of them walking into the room of the head of the election commission. The men attacked the observers and snatched the folder with the polling results out of their hands.

On September 14 press secretary of Mahilow “Young Front” branch Zmitser Bukataw was excluded from Mahilow Polytechnic University for “absence from classes without a good excuse”. The ex-student thinks he has been excluded because of his being politically active. Today the administration of this educational establishment has also considered the behavior of two students, Alexander Pawlovich and Alexander Kalita, participants of the “Zubr” performance in the village of Ryzhkavichy, where A.

Lukashenka was born. They played workers of a mental asylum who tried to catch a man with moustache there. That's why a criminal case for the insult to the president has been initiated against Alexander Pawlovich. Both youngsters were accused of absence from studies and forgery of sick leaves. Pawlovich and Kalita say that the doctors were forced to withdraw the leaves. Two other "Zubr" members who had taken part in the action "We Want to Know Truth", have already been found guilty. Ivan Paniutsich was warned. Natalla Suleimanava was fined 20 minimal wages, as the police witnesses said that she had resisted them during the detention and therefore accused her of disorderly conduct.

On September 14, 3rd-year students of Mahilow State University Maksim Laryonenka and Ales Haltsaw were expelled from the Faculty of Foreign Languages. Both students took an active part in the election campaign. During the election they were interpreting for OSCE observers B. Marshall and M. Dillen. Maksim Laryonenka and Ales Haltsaw didn't pass an exam during summer session. However, the dean extended the term for taking exams till September 31 for all students, but Maksim Laryonenka and Ales Haltsaw. This way, both students were deprived of the opportunity to re-take the exams, in contrast to all other students. After expulsion from the university, the guys immediately received call-ups to military service.

On September 17 the activist of the youth movement "Zubr" Andrei Zhukaw was warned for the violation of Article No. 167 part 10 (activity on behalf of an unregistered organization). The police had detained him in the town of Krasnapolle for posting portraits of the Presidential candidate Uladzimir Gancharyk during the electoral campaign. The policemen searched his flat and found there the logos of the "Zubr" movement. In spite the fact that the search was done without any warrant, the court found the search legal and warned the defendant.

On September 17 judge of Brest Leninski District Court A. Reutski sentenced Palina Panasiuk to 5 days of imprisonment for the violation of Article No. 167-1 of the Administrative Code (violation of the order of holding meetings and pickets). The guilt of the girl was that on August 19 she was handing out copies of the "Nasha Svaboda" newspaper in one of the Brest districts and "was expressing her negative attitude towards the election of A. Lukashenka to the second term as the President". In spite of her being a member of "Viasna" the judge didn't admit our representative to the trial. Neither did he admit the lawyer. Besides, the judge initiated another criminal case against her, accusing her of disrespect to the court. The thing is that she had not received the call-up to the court for the September 7 hearing and therefore didn't come to the

court on that day. If found guilty, Palina Panasiuk can be sentenced to 15 extra days of arrest.

On September 18 the teacher of the agricultural technical college in the settlement of Smilavichy (Minsk region, Cherven area) Alexander Nikitsin applied to PA HRC “Viasna”. He told us the following: “I have worked in the agricultural technical college since 1964. On September 5 I was summoned to the director, who said that he had fired me. He explained nothing. Now I want to be reinstated in my former position…” Moreover, A. Nikitsin also gave to PA HRC “Viasna” a number of documents, among them the order of the college director: "In connection with conducting of the anti-State policy within the agricultural college (in student hostels, the college buildings, etc.), insult of the honor and dignity of the Presidential candidates I order to warn Vital A. Nikitsin, Lilia L. Nikitsina and Valantsina I. Kukharonak against distributing brochures, fly-sheets, newspapers and other press containing insults to the honor and dignity of the President of the Republic of Belarus and the presidential candidates. Date: 05.09.2001 Signature: College director N. A. Pilui"

He showed us the trade-union committee’s response to his complaint:

"We inform you that according to Article No. 1, pt. 1 of the Labor Code the employer has the right to conclude and sever the working contracts with the employees. The trade-union committee can’t help you solve this problem".

On September 25 we learned that Henadz Martynaw, editor of Mahilow regional radio, was reprimanded and deprived of a monthly salary. He was punished for wearing a T-shirt "Let's say NO to the fool!" and distributing such T-shirts among the radio staff. Head of the regional radio Yawhen Melnikaw stated in the order that Henadz Martynaw was deprived of the salary for breaking the working discipline. Besides that, the journalist was accused of hanging Gancharyk's portrait in his room and biased coverage of Lukashenka's meeting with Kemerovo governor Aman Tuleev (Russian Federation). It was planned to punish the journalist more severely. The radio management was going to fire him. Martynaw was already proposed to quit on his own. The management also got annoyed by the fact that Henadz Martynaw became the deputy head of the "Independent Monitoring" in Mahilow region and took an active part in observation of the election.

On September 28 administrative commission of Slutsk district administration considered the police report, which was drawn on September 8. Siarhei Sarahavets was accused of distributing leaflets about the single candidate of opposition. Sarahavets was recognized guilty of violating article 172 part 3 of the Code of Administrative Offences

(''spreading printed materials, produced with violation of the established order"). He was fined 10 minimal wages.

On October 1, chief architect of Bialynichy district V. Dzimitriadzi was fired from his post. During the election campaign he collected signatures in support of Kalakin, and later participated in the independent election observation. The official reason for discharge was "non-performance of the official duties and non-observance of the working rules".

On October 2, in Hrodna Leninski district court judge Dzmitry Dzemchanka considered the administrative case of Mikalai Salanik, Gancharyk's trustee. Mikalai Salanik was charged with organizing the unauthorized rally, where Gancharyk had participated. Mikalai Salanik explained in court, that he applied to Hrodna administration, asking for permission to organize Gancharyk's meeting with voters on Lenin Square, or in other 3 places in Hrodna. The city administration replied: we cannot render assistance and cannot give our consent. Leninski district election commission gave a more concrete answer: "To deny. To conduct only indoor meetings". The trustee was also given a schedule of meetings with the candidates. The schedule was composed by the election commission, it was not coordinated with any of the candidates and wasn't approved by anybody. In court it became clear, that the pre-election meeting ran without violations of the public order. However, the prosecutor demanded that the police should make the meeting organizers answerable for it. That's how the charges against Salanik appeared. The judge sent the case back to the police.

On October 5, L. Yafimava, who lives in village Gudagai (Astravets district) informed the Human Rights Center "Viasna" that she was fired right after the election. Yafimava was an election observer in the frames of "Independent Monitoring". She had been working as a booking-clerk in Gudagai railway station for 8 years and was fired for active participation in the election.

On October 9 Sharkawshchyna district judge Maksimovich fined Vasil Hramovich, "Independent Monitoring" coordinator, 3 minimal wages. The thing is, that head of the election commission Maryan Pawlovich sued him for "spreading inaccurate information and insulting him in the application to the prosecutor". In the application Hramovich wrote that the head of the election commission came to observer Mikola Lukyanenka and, according to the latter, asked if Lukyanenka, loader in a bread-baking plant was not afraid to lose his job after the election. Pawlovich did not deny the fact of the conversation with Lukyanenka in private, but he stated that he had visited him in order to

offer him a job of a dispatcher. The judge decided that the fact of pressure on the observer was not proved, and that's why Hramovich's complaint contains libel.

On October 10 Human Rights Center "Viasna" was contacted by Stsiapan Korzan, Ashmiany district coordinator of "Independent Monitoring". He had been working as the chief of personnel training department of Ashmiany electricity supply network. S. Korzan informed us, that the company management did not prolong his working contract since September 31. He applied to the company director, saying that he had 2 children and agreed to work at any position. However, he was refused. After his discharge, S Korzan cannot find any job in the town, although he is a qualified communication engineer and has 92 acknowledgements and certificates of good work.

On October 11 Loyew district court refused to satisfy the complaint Of Valery Kanaplanik and reinstate him in a job. He has worked as a escort-postman for 11 years. Valery Kanaplanik, member of the United Civic Party, head of the local voter's club, activist of local "Karani" NGO, in the end of August visited Malinawka village polling station and asked what documents were needed for accreditation of an independent observer. He spent only 5 minutes in the polling station, but the election commission informed Loyew administration about his visit. The next day post office administration forced Kanaplanik to write an application of quitting the job, threatening him with firing him with unfavorable recommendation. Although right after the week-end Kanaplanik asked to annul his application, the post-office administration refused. Then V. Kanaplanik applied to court, but the court did not find reasons to reinstate him in a job, because it didn't find any proves of psychological pressure on him.

On October 12 Salihorsk city court judge Kalada considered the administrative case of Alexander Tapeka, head of the district committee of Education staff trade union of Belarusian Trade Union Federation. He was charged with spreading leaflets of presidential candidate Gancharyk among the employees of the city administration. As the result, Alexander Tapeka was fined 1 minimal wage.

On 15-16 October the consideration of the administrative case against the observer Ryhor Varvashevich took place at Brest Leninski District Court. R. Varvashevich was accused of «disobedience to the legal claims of the police» (Article No. 166 of CAV RB) and «Violation of the electoral legislation» (Article No. 167.3 of CAV RB). Representative of Brest Regional Branch of PA HRC «Viasna» defended the accused in court. Judge Miraniuk sentenced R. Varvashevich to pay the fine of 7 minimal wages (52 500 rubles).

On October 19 Krupki Area Court considered a suit of the teacher Andrei Alakhnovich to Krupki Area Department of State Education (ADSE) concerning

reinstatement in the workplace. It's worth mentioning that Andrei Alakhnovich was fired from secondary school No. 1 for active participation in the election campaign. It was qualified as violation of Article No. 47.3 of Working Code, "immoral action, incompatible with the teacher's profession". This fact witnesses the fact of the "profession prohibition" to the opponents of Lukashenka's politics. Anatol Zaitsaw, Head of Krupki ADSE participated in the trial in the capacity of defendant. When Alakhnovich's advocate Sviatlana Harbatok said that his testimony would be recorded, he started to feel uneasy and asked what was the reason. Judge Vasil Pankrataw explained that the legal norms allowed this. The defendant asserted that the plaintiff "was using pupils for pursuing his own objectives, drew them into subversive activity, imposed on them a nihilistic attitude to the State". At the trial some unexpected circumstances were revealed. For instance, Anatol Zaitsaw informed the court that on November 2, 2001 he had sent a letter about Alakhnovich to KGB, asking them to apply appropriate measures to him, he was even giving quotations from the letter and asked the court to attach it to the case materials. Pupils' parents and Alakhnovich's colleagues characterized him as an excellent and highly professional teacher. They said that "the children have become better, healthier and more interested in getting knowledge – the teacher taught them only good things". Judge Vasil Pankrataw decided to withhold the case consideration till Andrei Alakhnovich received answers from Procurator's office and Minsk Regional Court to his complaints.

On October 22 Klichaw district court judge A. Kamar reinstated Ludmila Hushcha in her job as a German language teacher in Klichaw agriculture and technical college. Ludmila Hushcha coordinated independent observation in Klichaw district and was fired for active participation in the election campaign. The court decided that her discharge was illegal. Now the college administration has to pay Ludmila her salary for the period of enforced idleness (September 5 – October 22) and compensation for moral damage 25 000 roubles.

On October 24 Vitebsk businessman Vasil Ihnatsenka was convoyed to the regional committee for financial investigation. On the eve of the election the police confiscated 5 thousand T-shirts "Say NO to the fool!" from him. The employees of the committee for financial investigation demanded his evidence, which would be the reason to accuse Vitebsk Youth Initiatives Center "Kontur" in non-statutory activities (organizing "Choose!" campaign in the region, in particular). As the result of economic check-ups "Kontur" activist Ihnatsenka was fined 500,000 roubles (about $400) for ostensible violations in business activities. According to investigators, they imposed several fines on Center "Kontur", which sum up to 8 million roubles (about $5,200).

On October 26 Slutsk district court judge A. Shchupikaw announced a verdict of not guilty to Zinaida Tsimoshak, teacher and United Civic Party activist. She was accused of spreading newspaper "Narodny President" without output data in village Hatsuk. The court decided that her being in the car, where the policemen had found a pile of the newspaper copies, did not mean she personally spread the newspaper.

On October 29 Cherven district court had a session on the complaint of teacher Alexander Nikitsin. He sued Smilavichy agriculture college for firing him. The session was postponed to November 1 because of the prosecutor's appeal to summon college director Mikalai Pilui to court.

On October 30 Mechyslaw Hiruts and Tadevush Havin received warnings for participation in the electoral campaign. The former was U. Gancharyk's trustee, the latter – a member of regional head-quarters of the single candidate. The judge explained his decision by the following fact: on September 7 Hiruts and Havin stopped parents in a secondary school and held an assembly there. Nobody had invited them there. Such an assembly was really carried out on September 7, in the town of Sapotsin (Hrodna Region). The authorities allowed M. Hiruts to hold a meeting with the electors within the electoral campaign in the local Palace of Culture, but nobody came there. Some Sapotsin inhabitants told Hiruts and Havin that the local authorities had recommended people not to go there. At the same time they gathered the parents of the schoolchildren at the local school. U. Gancharyk's representatives went to the school. Five policemen and the representative of Hrodna Region Executive Committee Zubrytskaya kept duty there. At first the school principal Zaretskaya promised Hiruts and Havin that they would speak to the people after the gathering was over, then proposed parents to go to different rooms with the teachers. About 30 parents of 150 stayed in the hall after the gathering. T. Havin managed to say a few words, M. Hiruts spoke for about 10 minutes. The police drew up a report for an unauthorized assembly. Though the defenders have proved that during the electoral campaign it was the task of the authorities to arrange meetings with trusted agents of the presidential candidates, the judge warned the defendants.

On November 1 Cherven District Court considered the suit of the former teacher of Smilavichy Agrarian College Alexander Nikitsin concerning his reinstatement. The consideration of the case was delayed as some documents, namely the text of the dismissal order and the working contract, contained many corrections and therefore needed expertise. Alexander Nikitsin was dismissed from work on September 5 for active participation in the independent monitoring of the Presidential election. His son, Vital Nikitsin, who is working at the same college, received a written warning for participation in “subversive activities”.

On November 1 vice-Head of the Young Front Yawhen Skochka was summoned to Homel Region Procurator's Office, where his complaint against violations of the electoral legislation during the Presidential election was being considered. The thing is that members of the electoral commissions didn't allow him to vote in Homel, where he lives, or in Minsk where he works. They told him that his surname wasn't included into the voting list. Besides, the on-duty policeman at one of the polling stations tried to include Skochka into such lists, fulfilling the functions of a member of electoral commission, though he wasn't one. As a result Yawhen Skochka directed complaints to the Chairman of polling station No.11 of Homel Navabelitski District and to General Procurator's office, where he described the violations and demanded adjudging the election illegal and bringing criminal charges against Alexander Lukashenka for vote-rigging. Homel Regional Procurator, Ms. Charnabai took an interest in the violations and promised to take appropriate measures, but ignored the proposal to indict A. Lukashenka.

On November 5 the teacher of maths and physics Leanid Svetsik, employed for a month by Krychaw secondary school No. 5, was expelled from the classroom in the middle of the lesson. The reason was his being the leader of an organization, treated as an opposition one by the local authorities. The thing is that the teacher whom he was substituting, was directed to Mahilow to complete an enhanced qualification course. The school chose Leanid, who had the 12-year experience of work, had written a number of scientific works. Besides, he was unemployed at that time. However, in the middle of the second lesson Head of Krychaw Area Education Board M. Mazok arrived at the school and prohibited the teacher's professional activity there. Leanid Svetsik had to leave the school without finishing the physics lesson in the "8B" form. He considers this to be the revenge the authorities have taken on him for his organization of and participation in the monitoring of the Presidential election and the suit against the local executive committee that he had won.

On December 13 Minsk regional Court considered the complaint of teacher Alexander Alakhnovich about the decision of Krupki Area Court.

Andrei Alakhnovich, a teacher of Krupki School #1 had been fired for involving 2 students in the election campaign, and having given them stickers to distribute. The official version is violation of article 47.3 – "an immoral deed, incompatible with teacher's profession". Andrei Alakhnovich sued Krupki Area Department of People's Education

(ADPE) concerning his reinstatement at the working place. His advocate is sure that he has been fired for political views, without any legal reasons. Krupki Area Court (Judge Vasil Pankrataw) refused to satisfy Andrei Alakhnovich's suit.

On November 16 we learned that Ryhor Kostusew, chair of Shklow branch of Belarusian Popular Front, was discharged from the post of director of district housing and communal services. The pressure on Kostusew started to grow when he became the chair of the district initiative group in support of Siamion Domash. At first the administration made hints that if he did not stop his political activity, he would be fired from the position. Later, when the pressure grew to such an extent that it was impossible to work, Ryhor Kostusew left his position himself.

On November 29 Mahilow court started the hearing of the case of Viktar Yasiukevich and Tamara Lewskaya. Yasiukevich and Lewskaya were the members of the initiative group of presidential candidate Uladzimir Gancharyk. They are accused of disobeying the police demands during the election campaign. Viktar Yasiukevich and Tamara Lewskaya are also criminally charged with resistance to a policeman.

On December 13 Chyhunachny district court continued the hearings of the administrative case against Siarhei Adzinets, the chairperson of the youth center "Hart". He is accused in violation of Presidential Decree #8: "About some measures on improvement of the procedures of receiving and using foreign grants". Let us remind you, on August 10, in the middle of the election campaign, Homel KGB conducted a search in the "Hart" office and confiscated all the office equipment (total cost of approximate $4000). The search and the confiscation were conducted under a criminal case, started by Homel KGB Board. The criminal case was started on the fact of "anti-presidential" slogans, which appeared on the walls of the town. Later the criminal charges were dropped. But KGB refused to return the confiscated office equipment. The State Tax Committee, basing on the KGB information, conducted a financial audit of the "Hart" activities, and states that the equipment was used not for the declared purpose, but for organizing "Independent Monitoring" campaign. This very fact is a violation of the Decree. In this case the equipment is a subject to confiscation. The proofs, presented by Leanid Sudalenka, the lawyer of "Hart", were not paid attention to. Judge Hanna Novik appointed the next court session for December 20 and requested the materials of the criminal case, which had been dropped before.

On December 18 we got the information that a "Choose!" Campaign Activist was Expelled from University in Mahilow. Maksim Haraipaw, a third-year student of Chemistry Technology Faculty is expelled from Mahilow State Technological University. University rector I. Chyzhyk signed official order, which names non-attendance of classes without valid reasons as a reason for expulsion. However, the procedure of expelling was conducted with violation of the University statute. According to the Statute of Mahilow State Technological University, the administration should issue an official warning to a

student at first, and can expel a student only for repeated infringement of that kind. Maksim Haraipaw is also a member of the student trade union, which objects the decision of administration. The real reason for expelling Maksim is his activities in a recently closed down student organization "Belarusian Student Association" and his active participation in "Choose!" campaign during presidential election. Presently the members of Mahilow branch of Belarusian Helsinki Committee are helping Maksim to file a complaint to court.

On December 20, Yury Kokhna, a former worker of Hrodna "Azot" factory, complained that, despite all his efforts, he was unable to find another job. During the election campaign he was an observer, nominated by "Viasna". He observed the election at the polling station of Zhukevichy village (Hrodna region). To be more exact, he was not allowed to observe the election on the very Election Day, just as all other observers, nominated by "Viasna". However, the administration of "Azot" hadn't left Yury's activities unnoticed, and fired him in the end of October. At first, the administration formed a committee as if to attest his work (although such attestation was supposed to take place only in 2002). The committee "made a conclusion" that Yury Kokhna was not capable of working as a carriage-building worker. When handing the notice over to Yury, the shop superintendent told him: "You want to be involved in politics? Now you'll have a lot of free time for that".

On December 21, Siarhei Lashkevich and Maksim Stasiukevich informed "Viasna" that they had been fired from their jobs. Siarhei Lashkevich is from Shchuchyn, he has worked at "Rutkevichy" factory. During the election campaign he worked in Domash headquarters, and collected signatures for him. When Domash withdrew his candidature, Lashkevich continued to work for Gancharyk, the united candidate of opposition. The factory administration paid attention to his conversations with the co-workers, and proposed to quit on his own accord. In other case, the factory chief said, they would find a reason to fire him with unfavorable recommendation.

Maksim Stasiukevich from Parechcha (Hrodna region) worked as a manager of the Entertainment department of "Parechcha" health center. He had been dismissed in the end of September, right after the end of the election campaign. During the campaign, Maksim Stasiukevich was detained by police for distributing leaflets in support of the unified candidate from opposition. Having been informed about the detention of his subordinate, the chief manager dismissed Stasiukevich.

On December 21 Frunzenski district court of Minsk heard the administrative case of assault and battery of the members of Gancharyk's (the united candidate from

opposition) initiative group. The incident took place on September 2 near Pushkinskaya Metro station. The members of the initiative group were conducting a meeting with voters. Several young people came up to Ihar Krebs and Darya Katkowskaya and started to ask questions, which concerned the ethnic origins of Uladzimir Gancharyk. The questions were of a distinct anti-Semitic connotation. Gradually the young people switched over to Ihar Krebs, calling him names, saying he was a Jew and demanding that he should leave for Israel. Mikalai Vasilchanka, a passer-by, who stood near the picket participants, interceded for them and rebuked the young people. In response one of the hooligans started to beat Vasilchanka, then – the picket participants, hitting Darya on the head. The police detained the hectors and took them to Frunzenski police station #3. However, when the detained (they turned out to be Dzmitry Kashel and Sviataslaw Laskowski) handed in the written explanations, the police released them, doing nothing more than an oral reprimand. Mikalai Vasilchanka was sent to undergo forensic medical examination, which registered trivial bodily harm. Later M. Vasilchanka went to a local clinic, which found that he had a light concussion of the brain. The victim filed a complaint to the prosecutor's office, demanding to press criminal charges against the hectors. However, the prosecutor did not see corpus delicti in the actions of D. Kashel and S. Laskowski, and brought administrative charges against the hectors under article 156.1 of the Code of Administrative Offences (deliberate light bodily harm or beating). The judge announced the verdict of not-guilty to Dzmitry Kashel, because the victim and his witnesses couldn't prove that it had been him who beat Vasilchanka. S. Laskowski was found guilty and fined 3 minimal wages (approximately 19 US dollars).

In December we got the information, that Neli Shloida, a district coordinator of "Independent Monitoring" (Maladechna), had already appealed against her dismissal for 4 times. Let us remind you, that on September 13, Neli Shloida was fired from the post of a drugstore manager. However, Maskowski district court of Minsk rejected reinstatement of employment to her.

FACTS OF CRUEL OR INHUMAN TREATMENT OF OPPOSITION ACTION PARTICIPANTS, THE DETAINED AND PRISONERS

In the night of 6 January the Vitebsk penitentiary for juvenile delinquents witnessed a rebellion of the convicts. It was brutally suppressed by the special police squad who had assaulted the barracks. One of the versions explaining why the disorder broke out was that some convicts had been placed into the isolation ward for smoking. The minor convicts had fortified one of the barracks and demanded that their comrades be released. Then the list of demands was expanded to include the abolishment of convoyed marching with obligatory singing, the permission to take the leftovers from the canteen, and, finally, the change of the prison administration… The special police squad used rubber truncheons and tear gas. Both sides suffered a number of casualties.

On February 6 the Chyhunachny District Court of Homel started the consideration of the case against the policemen of the city Central Department of Internal Affairs. The policemen beat 3 young people on March 31, 2000. Young people were detained near their house and threatened to be severely beaten if they wouldn't confess the robbery that had been committed in the next house. In the police department they were battered. One of the victims wrote in his appeal to the district Procurator that five policemen were beating him one by one with the rubber stick. They were hitting his bear feet, head, backbone so strong that the stick was broken… Then reports of disorderly conduct were drawn up: the boys had ostensibly interfered with people in the street, had sworn and tried to start a fight. All victims addressed the court hospital and then the law enforcement structures. The regional procurator started the case.

On February 25 members of the Young Front Anton Boika and Vital Padalak were detained near the building of the Zavadski District Executive Committee. They were accused of having painted some words on the wall and having attempted to hoist the flag. They were immediately beaten on the scene and brought to the Zavadski district police department. The policemen put them into different cells and began to interrogate them in turns. According to V. Padalak, they were torturing him: two policemen took his long hair in their hands and started to pull it in different directions. After that he had to sign the report which said that he had been planning to write the word "Zorro" on the wall of the Executive Committee building. The policemen were torturing the under-age A. Boika as well; he was put in a small stuffy cell and was held there till he fainted… A. Boika and V. Padalak completely refute their words now and state that they were made to sign the reports after threats and tortures. They are going to have the damage registered that

they had suffered and appeal to the procurator's office in order to initiate the criminal case.

On March 21 the friends of Antos Tsialezhnikaw, who had been sentenced to 15 days of jail for participation in the action of ZUBR youth movement, came to meet him at the doors of the detention center. But the policemen took Antos far away from the detention center and released him there.

On April 11 the under-aged Mikita Sasim applied to the Human Rights Center "Viasna". He told us the following:

"Two policemen detained me at 11 p.m. on April 5. They took me to Maskowski City Police Department No. 2 There an on-duty lieutenant (he didn't tell his name) beat me, painted my hair with my paint-bag. Then the policemen drew up reports registering my alleged violation of the administrative law. They also listened to my explanations. At 5 a.m. they took me to my flat in hand-cuffs. They woke up my neighbor (he has some relation to the Young Front). He was also taken to the City Police Department, made to give explanations and then released. I remained there. The on-duty officer repeatedly threatened to beat me again, wanted to cut my hair. He also told me that he would "take me to another department where a very angry policeman would beat me and stuff his gum-stick into my throat up to the grip".

I was kept in a cold cell for a long time in a T-shirt. They took away my coat, not to let me hang myself on its belt. At 11 a.m. next morning I was taken to the investigator. The policemen forced me to sign the report which said that it was me who had made "Zubr" inscriptions at the bus-stops, walls and a bridge. They handcuffed me, put me face to the floor and shot from a pneumatic gun above my head. After this the investigator brought my electro-shocker and said it should be tried on me. At 2 p.m. on April 6 I had a talk with the juvenile delinquency inspector who phoned my mother in Baranavichy. After this I was taken to Maskowski District Board of Internal Affairs where I signed the paper that I would come to the investigator at his requests. The policemen returned me my belongings and released me at 6.30 p.m. They didn't feed me for the whole day of detention."

At the beginning of April unknown persons beat the well-known lawyer Alexander Pylchanka, who defended Mikhail Chygir, his son Alexander and T. Vinnikava's son Siarhei at trials. Now A. Pylchanka is in hospital. Advocate A. Pahaniaila thinks that the massacre was an attempt to intimidate Pylchanka to make him refuse from working with the cases of the well-known people and their relatives.

On May 4 an internal investigation started in the Partyzanski district police department. It considers the case when the policemen beat Katsiaryna Shaban. Katsiaryna herself was called to the department today. The police lieutenant Uladzimir Novikaw beat her after the action "Final Diagnosis" of April 21, 2001. On May 4 Katsia came to the department together with her defender and wrote the explanation about the circumstances of the case as well as the appeal to the head of the police department. Afterwards she was requested to undergo a medical examination to confirm the physical damage. The call to the department is connected with the consideration of the case concerning the beating. In her suit Katsiaryna Shaban gave the following description of the policeman's actions: "A civilly-dressed man put his hand up and than hit my head as strong as he could. I fell against the wall. I started to shout that he was beating me. I saw his grin when he was coming up. Everything started to get dark, I heard noise in my head. Then I started to vomit and lost consciousness. I came around after a terrible head-strike against the floor. The man who did it is the police lieutenant Novikaw. At first the press named him as Alexander (by mistake). His real name is Uladzimir. He is 25 years old, born in village Haina, Lahoisk area of Minsk region. His father is the head of the villages' Soviet. After his son had finished school, he entered the physical training department of the Minsk Pedagogic Institute. After he had graduated, he was distributed to internal military forces, then started to work in police, Minsk District Board of Internal Affairs. He lives in Minsk, in one of the hostels in Siamashka street.

On May 18 people in civil clothes preventively detained 7 people. According to Tsimokh Atroshchankaw they weren't doing anything illegal and must have been detained because they had been wearing pins of the national white-red-white flag. Here's the list of the detainees: Tsimokh Atroshchankaw, Yana Sanko, Natalla Vasilevich, Natalla Karhina, Aleh Sahadzin, Yawhen Parmiakow, Uladzimir Horsa. According to Tsimokh Atroshchankaw, the people, who detained them, were using foul language and tried to insult them. When Valantsin Stefanovich, the representative of "Viasna", came up to the bus where the detainees had been placed, a police major asked him: "Do you belong to this crew as well?" When the detainees were led out of the underground pedestrian crossing, they put their hands behind heads as a sign of protest, and sang patriotic songs. One of them shouted he was a hostage, as nobody knew the people who had detained him. When the detainees were taken to the Central DBIA, there had been already 4 members of the Conservative-Christian Party, detained in Kastrychnitskaya Square.

On June 7 members of the Belarusian Student Association Krystsina Sidun (BSA Head), Siarhei Pawlukovich, Zmitser Hawrusik, Andrei Vitushka (beaten to blood) were detained for the distribution of the first number of the officially registered edition

"Student Newspaper" in Homel State University. The first number of "Student Newspaper" was issued on June 6. On June 7 BSA members went to different cities in order to present the fresh newspaper to students of various higher educational establishments. In Homel, however, the presentation had a tragic continuation…

The detained BSA activists were taken to Homel Central Police Board. Though Andrei Vitushka, after being beaten, was bleeding, the policemen categorically refused to call an ambulance and called KGB workers instead.

On July 5 the under aged Andrei Kavalevich and Illa Zhykharaw were detained in Healahichnaya street for distribution of the stickers «Time to Choose!» During the detention the policemen tore the T-shirt from one of them and purposefully injured fingers of the other one. Then they took the detainees to the Minsk Partyzanski District Board of Internal Affairs.

On July 5 it became known that Valery Shchukin had been transferred to Zhodzina Investigative Ward for a three-months' arrest term. The ward workers demonstrated a very «humane» attitude to the well-known human rights activist and journalist. They forcibly shaved him with a blunt razor and cut his face while doing that (V. Shchukin had a long beard before this procedure). They also confiscated his Criminal Code, independent newspapers and fiction books, confiscated even the toothpaste tube. They even forbade him to meet with the priest Ivan Spasiuk (representative of Belarusian Independent Church).

At 2 a.m. on July 6 in Vitebsk the police detained the members of the Vitebsk «Young Front» branch and activists of PA «Center o f Youth Initiatives Contour» Viktar Shlakhtsin, Ianis Chuchman, Tatsiana Chabatarova, Andrei Kaporykaw and Ihar Zemlakow. The young people were posting stickers «City Belongs to Us!» in Lenin Street. A police car came towards them, policemen from Kastrychnitski DBIA ringed the youth, searched them and forced into the car. During the detention the former were beating the detainees, using foul language and insults (even towards the detained girl). The policemen took the youngsters to a police point and kept them there for an hour. They composed a report on Viktar Shlakhtsin, who had a bag with glue and fly-sheets with him. They attached 176 confiscated fly-sheets to the report, asked the rest to tell their names and addresses and then released them.

On July 18 a group of journalists and human rights activists met with the deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the 13th Convocation, also a journalist and human rights activist Valery Shchukin in the Zhodzina investigative ward. Vice-Head of Executive Committee of Internal Affairs Board Viachaslaw Shabanaw escorted them. Valery Shchukin, whose

beard has been forcibly shaved off recently, has begun to grow a new one. The arrested journalist has given detailed information about the conditions of the investigative ward, such as lack of fresh air and sunlight, sultriness in the cells. As he pointed out, an hour walk was obviously not sufficient compensation. Valery Shchukin also complained about absence of new press. The administration of the investigative ward refused to accept the delivered newspapers, but the colleagues subscribed Shchukin to several independent newspapers.

In Shchukin's cell there is a portable TV with only one Russian channel, ORT, a table and three beads for three other prisoners who are kept together with him. According to his words, Shchukin has already prepared 17 article-letters for «Narodnaya Vola». Valery Shchukin also expressed his opinion about the present penitentiary system in Belarus: «Today's prisons are meant to punish people, not to reeducate them». He also said it was a pity that he was kept in prison in such a responsible time for the whole country, on the eve of the election… «But it's not in vain that I'm here now. I have acquired an excellent knowledge of the whole system. I know it from the inside. And after my release I will work at its reform. Our exemplary system remains so. It's not a Stalin system, as it is sometimes written. In Stalin system I wouldn't have survived three days. But the reform will take much time. It's a case when the whole community should help». The visitors were anxious about Shchukin's health. Few days ago his right leg swelled, and the doctor hasn't yet examined him.

On July 20 in Vitebsk the festival «Slavonic Bazaar» began. According to the organizers' plans it is intended to unite the lands of the former Soviet Union. Actually, it is becoming a successful tour of Russian pop-stars together with the «hard-spiriting» alcohol campaign, directed at Vitebsk citizens. This time, unlike previous years, neither thunder nor rain interrupted Lukashenka's speech. But there was a man who made his own corrections in the festival scenario. Andrei Kaporykaw carried the flag through police cordons under his shirt. At the end of the ceremony, when all the concert participants went out to the scene to greet the audience, he, carrying flowers, came up to the scene and rose the flag, shouting: «Long Live Belarus! God Save Us!». Immediately police guards rushed to him, but he managed to throw «Young Front» fly sheets and stickers at the audience. He was violently beaten in front of the scene, watched by the spectators. He was shouting «Long Live Belarus!» till he lost consciousness. The detainee was put face to the car – the policemen were beating and smothering him, then tore his clothes. Then they took him to Vitebsk Kastrychnitski DBIA and kept there for four hours. The policemen composed reports for disorderly conduct and distribution fly sheets' distribution. At 4 a.m. they let him go home.

On August 3 Alexander Atroshchankaw, the press officer of youth resistance movement "Zubr" applied to Centralny district prosecutor's office and to forensic medical experts. He stated that he had been beaten up by the policemen in the Centralny District Board of Internal Affairs. "Zubr" activists came to the Ministry of Internal Affairs building, carrying a big pack of Second Hand clothes. They gave the on-duty officer an appeal to be passed over to Minister Uladzimir Naumaw: "Mr. Minister, On July 27, during the celebration of Independence Day, the employees of your Ministry committed many illegal actions. The policemen not only kicked young people holding portraits of the disappeared people, but also robbed them. They confiscated T-shirts from dozens of people and took photo cameras from some of them. We think that they had to do that because of the bad economic policy of our state head. The policemen, living in poverty, are forced to get clothes in such a way. The youth resistance movement "Zubr" is ready to give material support to Belarusian police". Alexander Drapachka and Piotr Sadowski passed the pack and the appeal to the duty officer and left the building. In a few minutes they were detained. After half an hour in the MIA building, the police took the detainees to Minsk Central DBIA. "Zubr" press officer Alexander Atroshchankaw was also detained just for trying to find out the reason why the activists had been detained. Atroshchankaw states that policemen beat him there.

In the night of August 6 (at 2 a.m.) the police detained Yawhen Labko and Yawhen Roba for posting leaflets of "Young Front". The police beat Yawhen Labko during detention. The detained were taken to a police station. The police drew up reports by the terms of article 156 of Administrative Code (minor hooliganism). In 1 hour, the Young Front members were released.

On August 10 Kastrychnitski district court of Vitebsk heard the case of ceramics artist Andrei Kaporykaw. During Slavianski Bazar festival Andrei had greeted Belarusian singers with roses and white-red-white flag. This case was qualified as minor hooliganism (article 156 of the Code of Administrative Offences). The defense insisted that Kaporykaw was just emotionally greeting Belarusian singers, which is a usual behavior of young people at a concert. However, judge Kazlow ruled to punish Kaporykaw with a fine of 1 minimal wage (7 500 BRB). The judge did not accept the proposal of the defense just to warn Kaporykaw. Andrei Kaporykaw intends to sue the policemen, who had severely beaten him during detention, asking for material and moral compensation. At the same time, he sent a complaint to the department of internal affairs of Vitebsk region executive committee.

On August 16, at about 10.40 p.m. the police detained 14 people. Among the detained there are: Alaksei Shydlowski, Pavel Vainowski, Vasil Zhakow, Iryna Towstsik,

Siarzhuk Martsaw, Alexander Atroshchankaw, Andrei Piatrow and Alexandra Andrzyjewskaya. All the detained are members of the unregistered youth movement "Zubr". The police officers Melnikaw and Ihnatsenia were the most active while detaining the young people. The policemen threw the guys into the cars, the girls had to walk to the police station on foot. In the police station a police major hit Alexandra Andrzyjewskaya. One of the detained (Alexander Atroshchankaw) tried to defend the girl. The police punished him for bravery by putting on handcuffs. They kept Alexander with the handcuffs on during 1 hour - his hands immediately went blue. Alexander was also accused of "disorderly conduct" by the terms of article 156 of the Code of Administrative Offences.

On September 4 Vital Radkevich applied to the HRC Viasna. He told us the following: “At 11 p.m. on September 3 in the crossing of Bahdanovich and Kharuzhy Streets policemen from Savetski DBIA detained me for having posted a sticker “New President on 09.09”. They pushed me onto the ground, twisted my arms. Then they beat me in the car”. After taking Radkevich to the police station they drew up a standard report registering the violation of Article 156 of the Code of Administrative Offences (disorderly conduct). Radkevich spent a night in jail. At 12.30 a.m. on September 4 the police took him to Minsk Savetski District Court. But the judge had to postpone the trial as the police witness hadn’t come.

FACTS OF BEATING OF THE DIFFERENTLY MINDED BY "UNIDENTIFIED PERONS" AND "PEOPLE IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES"

On January 31, 3 strangers severely beat Aleh Sluchak, member of "Legal Assistance to Public". The criminals were detained by policemen of Frunzenski DBIA of Minsk. However, they did not initiate a criminal case: the criminals denied everything, and the police did not have enough evidence. Aleh Sluchak was taken to hospital in a very bad condition.

On March 22 Ales Pikula was severely beaten on his way home in Baranavichy. Ales Pikula is the chair of Baranavichy branch of Belarusian Popular Front. Three strangers attacked Ales and beat him until he lost consciousness. He was attacked on a dark street, going home from the bus stop. They knocked him down and started to kick. Unconscious Ales was found by a woman, who was walking her dog. She called for police. But police didn't come.

At the beginning of April unknown persons beat the well-known lawyer Alexander Pylchanka, who defended Mikhail Chygir, his son Alexander and T. Vinnikava's son Siarhei at trials. Now A. Pylchanka is in hospital. Advocate A. Pahaniaila thinks that the massacre was an attempt to intimidate Pylchanka to make him refuse from working with the cases of the well-known people and their relatives.

On June 10 strangers severely beat Antos Tsiarentsew, activist of Rechytsa Young Front and 3rd year student of Rechytsa Teachers' College, on his way to the dormitory. In a few hours, having regained his consciousness, he managed to find a public phone and call for ambulance. He was taken to hospital, where the doctors put several stitches on his head. Currently he is still in hospital, going through the course of treatment. It's worth mentioning, that several days before the incident a guy in civil clothes came up to Antos, showed his police ID and asked questions about his activities. Criminal case is initiated on the fact of beating.

On June 20 in Vitebsk Uladzimir Pleshchanka, the leader of Vitebsk organization of Christian Conservative Party, was attacked by 2 strangers. The attack occurred on Svaboda Square while Mr. Pleshchanka attempted to inform the citizens about the places where they could put their signatures in support of Zianon Pazniak as a presidential candidate. One of the attackers yelled at him, snatched an issue of "Belarusian Solidarity" bulletin out of his hands and punched him on the face. Once they saw blood on

Pleshchanka's face (from the smashed lip), the strangers ran away. The next day Pleshchanka was again collecting signatures at the same place.

On June 21 in Barysaw a fascist gang beat 2 under-age activists of youth movement ZUBR Tatsiana and Maryna Yasiuk. Today the girls applied to Barysaw city Board of Internal Affairs, stating that a gang of about 30 supporters of Russian National Unity and skinheads had beaten them. They were beaten on Gagaryna Street, near the dormitory of medical college and city stadium. The gang was taking the orders of a 20-year-old guy with a scar on his face. He was saying to the victims with a jeer: "Where is a thousand of Barysaw ZUBR members? Why do they let us beat you?". The gang knocked the girls off and kicked them on the head, hands and body. One of the bandits threatened the girls to kill them with a bottle, which they had broken on their heads earlier. All of a sudden the police appeared and the gang ran away. The policemen picked up the girls and rushed to catch the gang. As the result, 3 gang-members were detained. It's worth remarking, that the police did not show any interest in the fate of the girls. They didn't ask the girls for any explanation or evidence either. That's why today Tatsiana and Maryna requested to start the investigation on the fact of beating. According to Zmitser Barodka, the Barysaw representative of the human rights center "Viasna", this attack on ZUBR members, as well as previous attacks on the local activists of Belarusian Social Democratic Hramada, is the means of threatening the democratic opposition in Barysaw. To his mind, the policy of threatening is conducted by the special services on the eve of the presidential election.

On June 23, around 10 p.m. Tatsiana Yasiuk was heavily beaten again. The incident occurred on the bus stop. She fell unconscious and laid on the ground for several hours, until somebody helped her to get to the hospital. This time the doctors are seriously concerned about her health. She has bad injuries of the inner organs. It's unknown, who attacked her this time, but we suspect that this attack was very well prepared and was the continuation of the previous events. Most probably, the gang members followed her and attacked when there was nobody around.

On July 9 the participants of the picket, which took place on July 7 on Kastrychnitskaya Square in Minsk, Alexander Baradula, Siarhei Padzolka, and Zmitser Fiadorchanka went home to Barysaw. In the train they noticed that they were being followed by people in civil clothes. Siarhei Padzolka and Zmitser Fiadorchanka got off the train 1 stop earlier – in Pechy. In the forest belt they were attacked by a group of 5 young people, dressed in sports clothes. To the mind of Fiadorchanka, this group might have followed them from Minsk. After the first blow Padzolka shouted: "What for?" and heard the reply: "In other circumstances you would stay lying here forever". Fiadorchanka and

Padzolka have been severely beaten. However, the gang did not take money or any of valuable things. That's why they relate the attack to their political activities and the picket they had conducted on the anniversary of Zavadski's disappearing. Siarhei Padzolka and Zmitser Fiadorchanka applied to prosecutor's office.

In the evening on July 17 Siarhei Laptsew, a member of the initiative group of A. Yarashuk who had thrown a tomato at A. Lukashenka during the ski rally on July 3 was collecting signatures near a food store in Prytytski street in Minsk. Some unknown people came towards him and proposed to go with them. Then they seized Laptsew by hands and took him to an alley near Prytytski square. At first they hit him against a tree. Then they beat in the face, took his pager and money. While beating S. Laptsew they said: «We'll learn you how to insult Lukashenka». The beaten went to a clinic and had to stay here for the night. The following day he applied to the police concerning the fact of assault. We should remind that for throwing the tomato S. Laptsew was sentenced to 7 days of imprisonment. However, President decided to «forgive» him. Now we know what Lukashenka's forgiving is really worth.

On July 21 evening a group of unknown people beat the ex-deputy secretary of the Belarusian Security Council, Major General Valery Kez. Valery Kez has been working in Moscow for the last few years. He came to Minsk to take part in the 5th Congress of the Democratic Forces and the Constituent Congress of the "For the New Belarus" organization. According to Valery Kez, he was walking home in the newly built district situated between Parnikovaya and Filimonava Streets. Three young, well-built guys in sports clothes were sitting on a bench. Approximately 20-30 meters away Valery noticed a car with the running engine. Passing by the guys, Valery heard a noise and felt a blow somewhere near the collar-bone. As a result, Valery has a big haematoma near a collar-bone and numerous scratches on his back and his arms. Fortunately, the guys ran away when they saw some passers-by approaching. Valery Kez decided not to risk his health and life anymore and left for Moscow escorted by bodyguards. However, he plans to visit Belarus again and take part in the work of the Gancharyk headquarters. Valery Kez stated: "I don't want those behind the assault to think that they managed to intimidate me". He does not plan to report the matter to the police before the election results are announced. He explained: "If I apply now, the authorities will terrorize me with summonsing as a victim and a witness. This way they will not let me work for the united candidate Uladzimir Gancharyk" Besides, Valery Kez is sure the police will not be able to find the offenders, because "probably, they also wear uniforms".

On September 7 around 11 p.m. lawyer Siarhei Tsurko was beaten. He was returning home from a parking lot. Siarhei Tsurko is a member of Minsk city bar. He works in

«Independent Monitoring», analyzing violations of election legislation. He is also famous as a defender of opposition activists in courts. When Siarhei Tsurko was walking along the parking lot, 2 strangers, who had been sitting in a red «Zhiguli», stopped him. They grabbed the lawyer and dragged him into the car. He was thrown on the back seat and strongly hit at the chest. The blow on the chest provoked an attack of his chronic disease. But the strangers didn't let Tsurko to take medicine. S. Tsurko started to choke. In some time the strangers threw the lawyer out of the car. During the «ride» the strangers repeatedly threatened Siarhei Tsurko with physical violence, if he continued his human rights activities.

On September 8 people in plain clothes detained 18 members of Belarusian Freedom Party: they beat and insulted them. Here is the witness of the member of Belarusian Freedom Party Yury Karetnikaw: “At 3.30 p.m. the people in plain clothes detained me and 18 friends of mine in Yanka Kupala Park. They said they were workers of special police forces. The formal reason for the detention was the check of the documents. In five – eight minutes a bus came, people in plain clothes ran out of it. They pulled us into the bus and took to Minsk Savetski DBIA. During the “journey” one of them filmed us with his camera. They left us in the hall of the DBIA and then interrogated each one separately. Approximately at 5.30 there appeared a group of people in plain clothes, who took me – Yury Karetnikaw, Andrei Makaranka and Yury Zlobich to a green “Gazel” car and then handcuffed us. Soon they took us to the flat where my father, Viachaslaw Karetnikaw, lived. When we were in the car, the “plainclothes” severely beat Zlobich and Makaranka. Then they took me to my flat in presence of the district police inspector and called two female neighbors as attesting witnesses to be present at the search. Then they brought there the beaten Makaranka and Zlobich. Makaranka’s lip was torn, the nose was smashed and the lips were swollen. In the flat there were white-red-white and white-red-black (BPF symbol) flags, flyers, newspapers and magazines. They threw all those things into one pile on the floor. Their “cameraman” was filming it all. Then three of them took me to the kitchen and hit my head for several times. I started to feel a headache. They hit my head against the wall for one more time and ordered to give an interview in front of the camera. They put me, Makaranka and Zlobich on the sofa and started to film me answering their questions. They also ordered Makaranka to wash himself and change his T-shirt as he was all in blood. They didn’t bring any charges, didn’t answer our questions, reacted aggressively and sarcastically.”

At 10 p.m. on September 22 two unknown people beat the editor of the independent newspaper “Shklow News” Alexander Shcharbak in a dark street. In spite of the quick development of events and absence of light, the journalist recognized in one of

the assaulters a representative of the fascist organization "Russian National Unity". It's worth mentioning that before this a criminal case was initiated against him. A. Shcharbak doesn't hope that his application to the police will have any results, as the policemen from Shklow TBIA only managed to find his broken glasses

VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH, AND TO RECEIVING TRUE INFORMATION. PROSECUTION OF THE INDEPENDENT PRESS AND JOURNALISTS

On 9 January law enforcement officers sealed part of the equipment of the printer "Magic". The court ruled that the equipment of the publishing company "Magic" is to cover the indebtedness of the Belarusian Soros Foundation which is estimated to be USD 78,000. "The way the authorities are treating the private printer that publishes more than 20 independent periodicals (among which are such famous papers as "Narodnaya Vola", "Belaruskaya Delovaya Gazeta", "Nasha Svaboda", "Rabochy") poses a threat not only to the very existence of "Magic" but also to a number of other few non-state printers. Any of them may at any moment face the danger of losing the license. It is apparent that before the coming presidential election the authorities have launched a large-scale and all-embracing campaign aimed at getting under total control all the public organizations, first of all, the mass media as well as the technical services that maintain the mass media activities", - states the Belarusian Association of Journalists.

On 11 January in Minsk the Belarusian Association of Journalists held a press-conference devoted to the contingent closure of the private printer "Magic". Yury Budzko, the "Magic" director, Iosif Siaredzich and Pavel Zhuk, Editors-in-Chief of "Narodnaya Vola" and "Nasha Svaboda", respectively, took the floor.

On 12 January "Nasha Svaboda" published the medical comment on the mental health of A. Lukashenka. The psychotherapist Z. Shchyhelski made a diagnosis: "moderate mosaic-like psychopathy with the visible signs of paranoid and dissocial disarrangement". A person with a diagnosis like this are not allowed to serve in the army even in peace time. On 15 January it became known that the Procurator's office took an interest in this publication. They promised to soon decide what actions were to be taken. Art.367.1 of the new Criminal Code, that was enforced in 2001 and contains two articles concerning the President, provides for the following punishment: for libel against the President of Belarus one can be fined, sentenced to 2 years of correctional labor, 4 years of imprisonment.

On January 17 the new Minister of Internal Affairs held his first press-conference in the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA). The Minister answered questions concerning the human disappearances in Belarus. Before the beginning of the press-conference the well-known journalist Valery Shchukin suffered from the hostile actions of the MIA guards.

Valery Shchukin (a free-lance correspondent of “Narodnaya Vola”, a member of the Belarusian Association of Journalists) was seriously injured, trying to defend his right to receive information. Three guards laid Shchukin out on the floor. During the struggle between them a window was smashed and Shchukin got serious cuts. The guards had kept Shchukin down on the floor till the ambulance called by the journalists arrived. Shchukin was taken to the microsurgery department.

On January 22 the Procurator’s Office of the Republic of Belarus initiated a criminal case against the newspaper “Nasha Svaboda” for having published “libel” against the Belarusian President on January 12. The workers of the Procurator’s office considered libelous the diagnosis of A. Lukashenka’s mental disturbance, made by Doctor Zmitser Shchyhelski who now lives in the USA.

The case was initiated by the terms of Art.367.1 of the new Criminal Code that was enforced in 2001 and contains two articles concerning the President. An fact-finding team set up by the Procurator’s office is conducting investigation. For the violation of the above article one can be fined, sentenced to 2 years of correctional labor, 4 years of imprisonment.

On January 31 the universal campaign for the freedom of speech “Article 19” made a statement concerning the draft law of the Republic of Belarus “On Informational Security”. In the statement the organization expressed its anxiety over the fact that the authorities plan to introduce another law that camouflaged as “informational security” and “informational defense” will eliminate the freedom of speech. “Article 19” considers it another assault on the rights of the mass media. The fact that such things are done in the country on the eve of the Presidential election is one more reason for international concern, the statement says.

On February 6 “Belaruskaya Delovaya Gazeta” received an official warning from the Prosecutor General for violation of article 5 of the Law “On Press and other Mass Media”. The warning was signed by the deputy Prosecutor General Mikhail Sniahir. The ground for the warning was the article “The blood of “Almaz”” published by the newspaper in December 2000. The article dealt with the investigation of the case against Valery Ihnatovich, who was suspected in having something to do with the disappearance of Dzmitry Zavadski, the cameraman of ORT – Russian TV. According to the prosecutor, “BDG” breached the secrecy of investigation, in this way violating article 5. Actually, article 5 says about inadmissibility of publishing the investigation materials without the official permission of the investigating officer. But it also determines the “investigation materials” – these are the minutes of the interrogation, the results of the expertise,

inventories, statements, etc. However, “BDG” did not deal with any kind of documents like that, and that means it could not breach the investigation secrecy. The issued warning is already the second one. After 3 warnings the newspaper may be officially closed by the state.

On February 20 Uladzimir Zhandaraw, Judge of the Krychaw Regional Court, fined Siarhei Niarowny, the editor-in-chief of the newspaper ‘Volny Horad” (“Free Town”), 50 minimal wages. On February 2 the Krychaw police seized a circulation of “Volny Horad”. The number of the copies exceeded the official number, that’s why the policemen drew up a report of violation of Article No. 172.1 of the Code of Administrative Infringements (violations of the law on press and other mass media).

On February 26 the office of the independent newspaper “De-facto” was robbed. The unknown criminals stole the computer with newspaper archive and the materials of the next issue and the printer. The other expensive equipment was left in the office. That was the second robbery of the office within during 10 days. On February 16 the fax was stolen. After that the newspaper moved to the other office but the criminals found them there as well.

On March 2 Alexander Chakholski, secretary of BPF head-quarters, was detained by customs officers in Brest. The officers searched his personal belongings during the three-hour detention. As a result they confiscated 745 copies of the magazine “Belaruskiya Vedamastsi”. A report composed to register the confiscation qualified the magazine as: “Materials that threaten the political system of the Republic of Belarus”. The case will be transferred to court. The officials who conducted the confiscation refused to call their names. Only from the report it was found out that one of them was Stsiapan Kuzmich. A. Chakholski is going to submit a counter-suit to the Procurator’s office.

On March 3 in Minsk near the “Institute of Culture” metro station three teenagers – Pavel Yukhnevich, Andrei Bazhkow and Yury Yemelanovich – were detained for the distribution of the special edition of “Our Freedom” newspaper. The detainees were taken to the Kastrychnitski police department. The policemen confiscated 1500 copies of the special edition dedicated to the problem of people disappearance in Belarus.

On March 13 the State Committee for Press cancelled registration of "Forum-Lambda", the magazine, published by Belarusian Association of Gays and Lesbians. Edward Tarletski, the head of the Association, says that this is one more discriminative action of the state towards homosexuals. "Closing the magazine down, – he say, – is the evidence of the discriminative policy of the state towards gays and lesbians. This is an

unlawful decision. I want to stress once again – this is discrimination. They declare "Playboy" as not erotic, and our magazine – as an erotic one. Homophobia is growing in our society. We are not that powerful here, we cannot make a sexual revolution. The state does not explain that gays and lesbians are just people, as everybody else. This happens because of lack of education.

On April 13 the Minsk office of the People in Need Foundation, a Czech human rights NGO, was sealed and its head, Michal Plavec, deported. The official explanation – participation in the actions of opposition, violation of the living order.

On April 15 the police detained Dzianis Stolar and Yawhen Bohdan who were distributing the special edition of “Nasha Svaboda” newspaper.

From 16th till 18th of April more then 20 people were detained and brought to police for distribution of “Our Freedom” special edition. They were writing the explanations and then let go as there were no violation of the Administrative Code. But the sense of the detentions was in the attempt to stop the distribution. We cannot name the detained as the majority of them are students and there could be some problems on the place of their studying. The special edition called “the final diagnosis” includes many of the Lukashenka quotations like: ”Don’t complain that you are ill. We have a lot of sick people in our government”, “as people say – undress and work”, “the unique situation about Belarus is that I don’t owe anything to anybody”…

On April 19 Yawhen Hlytsko, Yawhen Savin, and Alexander Fedaseyew, all juvenile opposition members, were arrested at approximately 10:30 p.m. in Babruisk, Mahilow Region, for the distribution of the special issue of Rabochy. The policemen searched the boys, and took them to the Pershamaiski District Internal Affairs Directorate, where they were forced to write a statement explaining their actions. Officers threatened the youth with expulsion from high school. After about three hours in detention, the activists were released. All copies of Rabochy were confiscated. It is worth reminding that “Rabochy” newspaper is officially registered in the Ministry of Press.

On April 20, the Minsk police detained five opposition activists (three girls and two boys) near Okean (Ocean), fish supermarket located near Victory Square, for the distribution of a documentary titled "Wild hunt," produced by Pavel Sheremet, and a special edition of Nasha Svaboda about Lukashenka's mental condition.

On April 20 the editors of all Belarusian Independent newspapers appealed to OSCE representative on mass media freedom Fraimuth Duve and ask him to help them to stop the press on the independent mass media. “The major problem at the moment is the

economic discrimination – written in the appeal – the independent newspapers are made to pay unbearably high costs for their distribution, expedition, postage and delivery of the issues. This is the result of the monopoly of "Belposhta", the structural unit of the Ministry of Press, on the market. In the year of 2000 the costs of distribution of the independent newspapers were 5 times higher than the costs for state newspapers. This negative tendency continues in 2001 though "Belposhta" had to reduce the costs a bit after the mass protests of the journalists – now the difference is 3,3 times"

On June 1 in Hrodna the police detained Alaksei Salei, the photographer of "Pahonia" newspaper. He was detained for taking pictures of the soldiers, who "mowed" the lawn near the region administration building, with their hands – they tore the grass from the ground, preparing for the visit of the foreign guests. We got the information about this from Siarhei Malchyk, the head of the Hrodna branch of "Viasna". The photographer was detained and taken to the building of the regional administration. Then the administration employee telephoned to the KGB. They waited for a KGB officer for 2 hours but he didn't come. In the end they released the photographer.

On June 6 it became known that Ihar Loban, Chairman of Lakhavichy Area Board of the Conservative-Christian Party BPF, read U. Starchanka's article "The great Chernobyl War Is Going On" in the "Pahonia" newspaper of April 19, 2001. The article related the aftermath of the Chernobyl tragedy in Belarus. Thinking that the "vertical" should receive this information, he had the article copied and brought it to A. Sakun, Chairman of Lakhavichy Area Executive Committee, and V. Sapun, Chairman of Lakhavichy Area Board. But instead of thanks the officials concluded that I. Loban had distributed the printed edition with no issue data, the content of which aimed at damaging the State and public order. This information was transferred to the Lakhavichy Town Department of Internal Affairs (TDIA). On June 7 I. Loban was summoned to the TDIA. A report registering the violation of the third part of Article No. 172 of Code of Administrative Offences was drawn up. On May 12 the administrative commission of Lakhavichy Area Executive Committee considered the report of the administrative violation, found Mr. Loban guilty and fined him 5 700 rubles. I. Loban didn't agree with the committee's decision and protested it with the assistance of the PA HRC "Viasna".

On June 6 Valery Shchukin was tried at Minsk Leninski District Court for the ostensible violation of Article No. 166 of the Code of Administrative Offences (resistance to the legal demands of policemen). The trial concerned the events that had taken place on May 18. There were 9 police witnesses present. All of them witnessed he "used foul language, called people to overlap the avenue". The video materials, however, failed to

confirm this. M. Pastukhow was defending V. Shchukin at the trial. He informed the court that Valery Shchukin was present in Francysk Skaryna Avenue in the capacity of a journalist, and showed the evidence – direction for journalist report. In spite of this fact, judge Alexander Shylko sentenced Valery Shchukin to 10 days of administrative arrest. The execution of the punishment was postponed for 10 days on Shchukin's request.

In the morning on June 8 the police detained the BSA students again and then set them free. Andrei Vitushka, BSA activist, who was severely beaten on June 7, had the beating results registered. In presence of the lawyer he gave detailed explanations and applied to the police against the illegal actions of M.M. Miazhevich. The fact of the beating will be inspected.

On June 12 Valery Shchukin voluntary came to Frunzenski District Board of Internal Affairs and was put into the investigative ward, where he will spend 3 months for his attempt to protect his right to receive and distribute information. The thing is that on January 16, 2001 V. Shchukin was detained in the building of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, where the first press conference of the new minister of internal affairs, Uladzimir Naumaw, was going on. There the minister had to answer the questions concerning people's disappearances in Belarus.

While V. Shchukin was trying to get inside the building to attend the press conference, three guards put him on the floor. During the fight a window was broken, and Shchukin got a few cuts. Till the ambulance, which was called on the journalists' demand, arrived, the guards kept the bleeding Shchukin on the floor.

Then he was taken to the microsurgery department of the military hospital. The minister commented on this event in the following way: "I don't consider Shchukin a journalist. I want him to keep to the law as the majority of the Republic's citizens do. And not to create the image of a human rights activist, going wherever he wants… The Ministry of Internal Affairs is a regime establishment. Even its workers are admitted there only on special certificates. And the fact that Shchukin considers himself a free-lance correspondent or a human rights activist, doesn't give him the right… That's why this regular small disorderly conduct isn't forgiven him only because he has chosen such a way of life. I even pity such people a little…"

A criminal case on the first part of Article No. 339 was brought against Shchukin after the incident. As a result he was sentenced to three months of arrest.

On June 12 the members of the "Zubr" movement Kiryl Danko, Andrei Zalatar, Vasil Khatyniuk, Andrei Khomich and Palina Panasiuk were detained in Brest for distribution of

the newspaper "Nasha Svaboda". The detention took place at about 5.30 p.m. near Milk Factory in Ya. Kupala Street. Policemen were going to a gas station, when an "alert" citizen told them that near Milk Factory a suspicious newspaper was being distributed. All detainees were taken to the Brest Maskowski DBIA and kept there till 6.50. The detainees' requests to make telephone calls were rudely turned down. The policemen impudently demonstrated their disrespect for the law. For instance, to the question of the police lieutenant, who detained the "Zubr" members, what he should do with them, the on-duty captain Yarash seriously and decisively answered: "Shoot 'em!". When the detainees tried to turn the attention of the DBIA workers to the violation of their constitutional rights, the latter answered: "Forget your constitution!" Lieutenant A. Kavalenka composed the report of confiscation of 152 copies of the newspaper (the real number was more than 1 000). The "guards of the public order" promised to cut sausage and put glasses of vodka on the newspaper that shouts about the pain and tears of Belarusians. By the way, many of the policemen emphasized that they didn't support Lukashenka. This detention happened at the end of the week-long action of the newspaper distribution at the most important industrial enterprises of Brest. From June 6 to 12 the special edition of "Nasha Svaboda" was distributed at Stocking, Carpet, Bread Combines, factories of household chemicals, gas equipment, electro-lamp and mechanical factories, "Tsvetatron". Students of several higher educational establishments and colleges received the newspaper as well.

On June 19 the office of "Nasha Svaboda" independent newspaper was visited by 3 people, who introduced themselves as law-enforces from Financial Investigation Committee. They were headed by V. Hancharow, who introduced himself as the head of financial investigation department. They demonstrated "Order # 004132", sealed by Frunzenski inter-district department of the state committee for financial investigation. The "Order" provided for examination of financial and economic activity of "Nasha Svaboda". V. Hancharow started to "study" the content of the bags and other private belongings of newspaper employees. Photographer U. Shlapak had a number of stickers with Lukashenka and the disappeared Zakharanka on him, which were immediately confiscated. Then V. Hancharow started to search the drawers. Here he got the following trophies: original cartoons of a person, resembling Lukashenka. By the way, neither a search warrant was produced, nor confiscation reports drawn up. However, the newspaper staff did not interfere in the actions of the "financial police": the release of the next newspaper issue was under threat. For about 40 minutes both journalists and technical staff were not able to continue their work. When the next issue was sent to the press, the officers of the financial investigation committee left the newspaper office.

They left a document, which said that no violations in the financial activity of “Nasha Svaboda” had been found.

On June 22 journalist and human rights activist Valery Shchukin, kept in jail, applied to Minsk city court against the verdict of Leninski district court. The verdict of arrest of Shchukin, announced on March 15, 2001 by Centralny district court, came into force on June 12. Valery Shchukin is to serve 2,5 months more. However, he continues to appeal against another sentence – the sentence, made by Leninski district court by the terms of article 166 of Administrative Code (insubordination to the lawful demands of police). Valery Shchukin filed a complaint to the city court against this sentence. He demands to cancel the verdict of 10 days of jail, he got for participation in the action of May 18. Shchukin states that he was performing his professional functions and was not the participant of the action during the Second All-Belarusian Assembly. If Shchukin's complaint is not satisfied, he would have to serve 10 days in Akrestsina detention center after he having served the 3-months arrest in Zhodzina jail.

On June 27 in Krychaw about 7a.m. Siarhei Niarowny heard an insistent knocking at the door of his apartment. Siarhei Niarowny, the editor-in-chief of the local newspaper “Volny Horad” (Free Town), saw that the intruders were the police officers. They didn’t have a search warrant and couldn’t enter the apartment without the permission of the owner. However, the policemen had a different opinion and practically broke the doors. A little bit later they cut the apartment from the telephone line and electricity. In spite of all measures taken, the police didn’t manage to enter the apartment, because the entrance had been blocked from inside.

Siarhei Niarowny submitted an application to Krychaw prosecution office, reporting about the actions of the policemen, which he considered illegal. This is the second time the police tries to enter the apartment of the editor of “Volny Horad” newspaper. The first incident took place on June 25, when the police surrounded the apartment block and for a few hours waited for a search warrant. However, the prosecutor refused to issue a warrant to search, because he didn’t see any reasons to make a search. The police had to leave. All police attempts to enter the editor's apartment were related to the newspaper computer equipment, which was situated in the apartment.

On July 4 the police summoned the BPF members B. Andrasiuk and R. Varvashevich to Brest Leninski District Board of Internal Affairs (DBIA) as witnesses. Representative of the PA HRC «Viasna» U. Vialichkin whom Varvashevich invited to represent his interests became another summoned witness. The case concerned the distribution of the newspaper «Narodny President» («People’s President»). Regional Procurator’s office

tasked Leninski DBIA with investigation of the illegal distribution of the newspaper containing «libel» on president of the Republic of Belarus.

At 12.30 on July 12 the police came to the editorial office of the newspaper «Volny Horad» («Free Town») in the town of Krychaw. They confiscated all the office equipment: three computers, two of which are the property of the US Embassy, scanner, photo-camera, TV-set, video-recorder, in spite of the fact that US Embassy has already confirmed that the editorial staff rented the equipment. The policemen also detained three people: Matoranka, Niarowny and Baravikow, confiscated 1 000 signatures for one of the candidates on Presidential position Siamion Domash and sealed the office. Krychaw Area Court found Siarhei Baravikow guilty of violation of Article No. 156 of the Code of Administrative Offences (disorderly conduct).

At night on July 17 unknown persons robbed the editorial office of the independent newspaper «Den». They stole all the information bases from the office computers. The editorial staff is convinced that it is connected with the numerous newspaper publications, devoted to disappearances of well-known Belarusian politicians and journalists. No traces were found. The robbery was done professionally.

On July 23 the police of Khotsimsk Area of Mahilow region have confiscated all equipment of the only independent regional newspaper «Belaruski Uskhod» («Belarusian East»). They explained this with execution of Decree No. 8 concerning the free-charge foreign support.

At night on July 24 the editorial staff of the independent newspaper «Den» was robbed for the second time. The staff members were preparing a number devoted to people's disappearances in Belarus. They did not manage to publish the number with such content last week as unknown people had stolen the computers. The unknown robbers made the same thing for the second time.

On August 15 and 16, in Orsha the Committee for Financial Investigations and KGB confiscated equipment from businessman Viktar Andreyew, who publishes "Kutseina" independent newspaper. Having accused Andreyew in "illegal business activities", they confiscated a Xerox, 4 computers, several copies of the newspaper and issues of a human rights bulletin. They also broke the doors and the window of the private house, where the Xerox-machine was. One of the KGB agents informed Andreyew that they had followed the newspaper staff.

On August 16, in Baranavichy the police confiscated the Russian newspaper "President", which covered the issue of political situation in Belarus. Earlier 64 000 copies of the newspaper were confiscated in Hrodna.

On August 17, 216 400 copies of the special issue of "Nasha Svaboda" newspaper dedicated to the unique candidate from the wide democratic coalition Vladimir Gancharyk, was arrested by the Committee for Financial Investigation.

On August 17 The State Committee For Press Warned "NASHA SVABODA" Newspaper. The chair of the State Committee Mikhail Padhainy claims that the newspaper has violated the article 32 of the Law "On Press and Other Mass Media", as it published an article "Dictator Is Let Down By His Entourage". The State Committee warned the independent newspaper that in case of the second violation the publishing of the newspaper would be suspended for up to three months.

On August 17, in Hlybokaye (Vitebsk region) director of the local branch of "Belsayuzdruk" (state distribution network) Volha Mikhailava refused to take the issue of newspaper "Volnaye Hlybokaye" for sale. She motivated her actions, which violate the contract between "Belsayuzdruk" and the editorial staff of the newspaper, by the fact that people in Hlybokaye do not want to buy "Savetskaya Belorussia", the main pro-presidential newspaper, because of "Volnaye Hlybokaye".

On August 20 the State Committee for Press reprimanded "Svobodnye Novosti" newspaper, because "the newspaper had published inaccurate information". The State Committee for Press considered the following phrase to be inaccurate information: "The president promised to make a fight in his residence – to engage "Almaz", "Alpha" and special forces to fight the people who do not agree to his "re-election". It is stressed in the reprimand, that in case of the repeated violation, the publishing of the newspaper would be suspended for up to 3 months.

On August 23 the employees of Zavodski district tax inspectorate confiscated 10 computers from the office of "Narodnaya Vola". "NV" is an independent newspaper with the biggest circulation in Belarus. The tax inspectors explained to the surprised journalists that the computers "should undergo a thorough examination" because of the fact that the computers belonged to private individuals, and not the editorial board. After the visit of the tax inspectorate, the editorial board is left with only 4 computers. The newspaper is under the threat of closure.

On August 21 the employees of Pershamaiski interdistrict department of the Committee for Financial Investigation and Maskowski Tax Committee visited the office of

the independent newspaper “Nasha Svaboda”. They were very much interested in the computer equipment, used by the journalists. During the check, the visitors found out that the journalists don’t have a document (agreement of free-of-charge rent) for one of the computers. As the result the computer was “arrested” – it was switched off and sealed..

On August 21-22 the Committee for Financial Investigation and tax inspectorate performed an inspection of equipment in the office of a nationwide independent newspaper "Belaruskaya Delovaya Gazeta". The inspection is being done by 3 supervising bodies at a time: Maskowski interdistrict department of the Committee for Financial Investigation, and tax inspections of Pershamaiski and Centralny districts of Minsk.

On August 22 Pershamaiski interdistrict department of the Committee for Financial Investigation blocked the work of Magic publishing house. Magic prints 29 editions, 6 out of them have political and public character. Magic did not work till August 27. Magic resumed its work only after director of the private publishing house Yury Budzko agreed to appoint Uladzimir Hlushakow as acting director of Magic. Uladzimir Hlushakow is the first deputy of the head of the State Committee for Press. This appointment violates Art. 8 of the law "about the measures of fighting organized crime and corruption", which prohibits interference of the authorities and other officials into the activities of other state and private bodies, companies, institutions and organizations, if it does not lie within the range of their duties.

On August 22 the editorial staff of "Belaruskaya Delovaya Gazeta" informed the public, that the state distribution company "Minharsayuzdruk" turned down the proposal of "BDG" to take more copies of the newspaper for distribution, for September 2001. Having denied the proposal of "BDG", "Minharsayuzdruk" will lose about 1 million roubles of profit. That is why the editors think that such a decision was made on exclusively political grounds, and aims at limiting the access of the people to the information on the eve of the presidential election. Earlier "Minharsayuzdruk" refused to increase the number of copies for distribution, as it was proposed by the editors of "Svobodnye Novosti" and "Den" newspapers.

On August 22, Brest administration department of justice accused "Brestski Kuryer" newspaper in spreading information about the activities of unregistered organizations. The authorities refer to the declaration, published in the newspaper, titled "Stop Persecution of Democratic presidential Candidates", and signed by the leaders of parties and organizations in opposition.

On August 23 Paval Zhuk and Iosif Siaredzich, the editors-in-chief of the independent newspapers "Nasha Svaboda" and "Narodnaya Vola" gave a press-conference. Iosif Siaredzich informed the journalists that instead of 45 000 copies of the latest issue of his newspaper they managed to print only 10 000 copies. The next issue may not appear at all. The special issue of "Narodnaya Vola" devoted to the presidential election is also under threat. It was supposed to be printed on August 23. The Committee for Financial Investigations both arrested all the equipment of the "Magic" printer and froze all the accounts. The ground for these drastic actions was the statement of the Supreme Economic Court, which appeared very unexpectedly for everybody. By the way, the seized equipment is not "Magic's property; and the confiscated paper belongs to the newspapers that the "Magic" printed. The lawyers consider the actions of the Committee illegal: in order to seize equipment one needs a court ruling rather than a court statement. The fact that the leaflets and the posters of the united candidate from the broad civic coalition were printed there is the graphic evidence of the political reasons for such actions of the authorities. The editors-in-chief of the independent newspapers assess the actions of the financial police as the order of the authorities, which aim to deprive the people of information about Uladzimir Gancharyk, the main rival of Lukashenka.

On August 28, 39,500 copies of a special issue of Rabochy, a newspaper of the Belarusian Independent Trade Union, printed by Magic publishing house, were seized by representatives of the Pershamaiski District Prosecutor's Office of Minsk. The reason for confiscation was an article titled "Thief Must Go to Jail," which accuses the Belarusian strongman and his entourage of committing numerous economic crimes. Viktar Ivashkevich, Rabochy's editor-in-chief, had asked Magic to print 400,000 copies of the edition. When first 39,500 copies were out of print on the evening of August 27, Vladimir Hlushakow, deputy head of the State Committee for Press, who had been temporarily appointed Magic's acting director, stopped the press. Ivashkevich was not allowed to take the copies. The next day, when Ivashkevich arrived to Magic, he was met by the investigator Faleichyk, who already confiscated them. Ivashkevich was notified about the launching of criminal proceedings for slandering the president. The fact, that the proceedings are launched before the newspaper could reach the readers demonstrates the existence of censorship in the country.

On August 29, Vladimir Hlushakow, deputy head of the State Committee for Press, who had been temporarily appointed Publishing House Magic's acting director, censored Predprinimatelskaya Gazeta, an independent newspaper. One of the censored articles pointed out that by running for a third time, the current Belarusian leader violates the

Belarusian Constitution. Another piece reminded readers that it is a criminal offense for government officials to falsify election results. In place of the articles, the paper ran blank spaces.

On September 4, in Salihorsk the head of the city election commission did not let free-lance journalist of local newspaper "Salidarnasts" to the polling station. He motivated his actions, that only permanent members of the editorial team had the right to observe election. However, this reason violates Art. 13 of the Election Code, which declares that all journalists, no matter if they are permanent or free-lance members of the editorial team, have the right to be present at the polling station.

On September 5, Narodnaya Vola and "Belaruskaya Maladziozhnaya" independent newspapers, became the latest victims of Hlushakow's censorship. Hlushakow demanded to remove certain articles from their pages. The journalists of "Belaruskaya Maladziozhnaya" had to submit the newspaper thrice, before it got printed.

On September 5, criminal proceedings for slandering the president under Art 367, par. 1, of the Belarusian Penal Code, which is punishable by up to five year's imprisonment, was launched against Pahonia, the non-state Hrodna-based newspaper. Police confiscated all office equipment and first 10,750 copies of the newspaper's special issue dedicated to the presidential elections.

On September 5 the employees of Hrodna region prosecutor's office, Leninski district prosecutor's office, Leninski DBIA, State Committee for Financial Investigations, and Department for Fighting Economic Crimes raided the office of Pahonia newspaper. They seized materials and equipment, as well as financial documents of the editorial team.

On September 7, Hrodna prosecutor's office submitted a suit of closing down the independent newspaper Pahonia to the Supreme Economic Court. Hrodna prosecutor's office acts "in interests of the state, in the person of the State Committee for Press". According to Hrodna prosecutor's office, the reason for closing Pahonia down is its numerous violations of the law on press.

On September 7, Vitebsk region publishing house refused to print an issue of the local independent newspaper "Vitebskiye Delovye Novosti", although the editorial team submitted the newspaper layout on time and made a pre-payment for printing. Editor-in-chief Ihar Nestseraw thinks that the reason for such a refusal might be the fact, that the issue provided extensive coverage for Gancharyk's visit to Vitebsk and hidden aspects of the election campaign in Vitebsk.

On September 7, Minsk police confiscated 15,000 copies of "Belaruskaya Maladziozhnaya" newspaper from the trunk of a car. The policemen categorically refused to draw up the seizure note.

On September 7 deputy head of Homel region election commission Alexander Usaw refused to provide journalist Anatol Hatowchyts with information. Hatowchyts was accredited to this election commission. Usaw refused to inform the journalist about the number of voters in the districts of the region, and the number of voters, who voted early. Usaw explained, that "journalist duty is nothing else, but: to come to the polling station, to watch, and to observe how voting is going on". Hatowchyts filed a complaint to the prosecutor's office, but the prosecutor's office returned his complaint to the same election commission.

On September 8, Narodnaya Vola, the biggest daily independent newspaper, ran blank spaces on place of some articles. Deputy head of the State Committee for Press U. Hlushakow, who is acting director of Magic publishing house, demanded to remove the declaration of Siarhei Kalakin, the leader of the Communist Party in opposition. In his declaration Kalakin stated, that the Belarusian Security Council provided all the heads of city and district administrations with 20,000 extra ballot-papers each, which they could manipulate during the election. Besides that, Hlushakow censored the headline "Tomorrow – Election of the Second President", removing the word "second" from it.

On September 8-9, the Security Council ordered the administration of the State Center of Information Security, responsible for domain policy in *.by zone, to remove from DNS information on all sites, that intended to monitor presidential elections in Belarus. As a result, sites of Belaruskaya Delovaya Gazeta www.bdg.by, Belaruski Rynok www.br.minsk.by, and all those, whose addresses started with *.home.by, *.minsk.by, *.org.by and others are no longer available on-line. Next day they installed a filter for the incoming traffic (there's state monopoly on exterior channel in Belarus), which obstructed access for all Belarusian users to the sites, covering the elections in Belarus. We can say with full certainty now that not a single site covering the Belarusian elections on-line, can be reached from Belarus. To the sites, blocked earlier (Charter 97, Radio Freedom, Nasha Svaboda newspaper, Belarusian Business Newspaper, Belarusian Newspaper), some more sites added: the site of the civil initiative "Independent Monitoring", that distributes information on the mass violations of the electoral code, BelaPAN agency site, Radio Ratsya site, a site of the single democratic candidate Vladimir Gancharyk. The same day the authorities switched off office phones of many regional newspapers, political parties and NGOs, as well as of "Independent Monitoring" offices,

which organized parallel vote tabulation and monitored violations of the Election Code. Mobile phones were also switched off in the center of Minsk.

On September 14 the Board of Public Association "Belarusian Association of Journalists" applied to Procurator's office of the Republic of Belarus in connection with the facts of censorship by Uladzimir Hlushakow, the first Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Press, who forced his appointment as the acting director of the "Magic" printer. PA BAJ Board demands that the Procurator's office urgently react in order to restore justice and defend the legal interests of the editorial staff. The authors of the petition also think that the Procurator's office should consider legal action or a discipline against U. Hlushakow. The application mentioned a number of law violations. On August 28, the intrusion of the printer authorities resulted in the disrupted the release of the newspaper "Rabochy". On August 31 two special issues (32 and 33) of "Businessmen's Newspaper" were issued with white spaces instead of the articles whose publication had been banned by Hlushakow. On September 5, threatening to prohibit the printing of the newspapers, he demanded to exclude a number of articles from "Narodnaya Vola" and "Belaruskaya Maladziozhnaya". The "Belaruskaya Maladziozhnaya" staff had to put the newspaper for printing three times. On September 6 the Belarusian Association of Journalists demanded U. Hlushakow stop violating the rights of the press. The following day he again acted as a censor – this time forcing a representative of "Narodnaya Vola" to exclude articles from the printed number. As a result "Narodnaya Vola" was issued with white spaces on the front page. BAJ believes that such actions can be classified as violation of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus and Law "On Press and Other Mass Media". Constitution Article No. 33 guarantees the freedom of views and beliefs and their free expression: nobody can be forced to express their views or refuse from them. This Article also states the inadmissibility of censorship. The requirement to remove articles from a ready newspaper is censorship (Article No. 4 of Law on Press). The references of U. Hlushakow to the fact that the mentioned articles infringed the rights and the legal interests of other citizens, insulted the honor and dignity of the President of the Republic of Belarus, are groundless. The court and other State bodies have the right to decide whether the Mass Media have violated the law having published some information. The BAJ Board has also pointed out that the very appointment of Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Press U. Hlushakow the acting director of the "Magic" printer a case of flagrant violation of Belarusian legislation.

On September 21 judge of Minsk Pershamaiski District Court decided to postpone till November 1 the consideration of the suit against the author of the program "Secret Springs of Politics" by the UCP leader Anatol Labedzka about protection of honor and

dignity. The postponement of the suit consideration is connected with the absence of the defendant in the court. Lawyers of Belarusian State TV-company explained that till the end of October Yury Azaronak would be on the leave of absence. Besides, the lawyers submitted to the court an explanatory note saying that the Belarusian TV-company couldn't provide the court with a copy of the program as there was a lack of video-cassettes and therefore the programs couldn't be saved for more than a month.

On September 22 M. Markevich, editor-in-chief of "Pahonia" newspaper was urgently summoned to the regional Procurator's office to give the warning to the newspaper because of the two articles in No. 36 that ostensibly contained the libel of the President. For these two articles the Procurator's office initiated a criminal case against the newspaper and even confiscated No. 37. The last, 38th number, however, was issued. Journalists from independent periodicals had to keep duty in the printer to prevent the possible confiscation.

On September 24 Belarusian border guards confiscated 50 copies of the journal "Belaruskiya Vedamastsi" and two Zianon Pazniak's books "Gloria Patria" from Mikalai Antsypovich, member of the Council of Conservative-Christian Party BPF. M. Antsypovich was returning to Belarus from Warsaw after a meeting with Zianon Pazniak. "Belaruskiya Vedamastsi" is the magazine Pazniak issues.

On September 25 editorial staff of the newspaper "Brest Courier" received an official warning from the State Committee on Press for ostensible violation of Article No. 5 of Law on Press by publication of the appeal 'Let's Stop Persecution of Democratic Candidates to Presidential Position of the Republic of Belarus!". Members of the local opposition parties signed the appeal. The thing is that some of the organizations mentioned in the text of the appeal hadn't been re-registered in the Brest Regional Executive Committee. That's why the newspaper received the warning. It's worth mentioning that this year "Brest Courier" has already complained against another warning of the State Committee on Press and has won the case at the Supreme Economic Court of the Republic of Belarus.

On September 27 judge of the Supreme Economic Court of the Republic of Belarus Valery Zhandaraw decided to postpone till October 5 the consideration of the case of the liquidation of the Hrodna independent newspaper "Pahonia". The reason was that the plaintiff, Hrodna region Procurator's office didn't provide the court with all documentation that is necessary for the case consideration. The "Pahonia" editor-in-chief expressed his point of view on this postponement in the following way: "the Procurator's

office claims to "Pahonia" aren't based on the law and have obvious features of political order. I am sure that if there is no pressure on the court, this suit will be rejected".

On 5 October the Supreme Economic Court of the Republic of Belarus had a regular hearing of the case involving the closure of the independent newspaper «Pahonia». Judge Valery Zhandaraw again ruled to postpone the hearing till 23 October «in order to get a comprehensive and correct picture of the events». His motivation was that the Hrodna Regional Procurator's Office had not submitted to the court a copy of the report registering the seizure of the entire print run of issue #36 of 4 September. At the beginning of the hearing, the «Pahonia» lawyer Anzhela Ratner lodged a petition to dismiss the Pahonia case. According to her, after the State Committee on the Press refused to continue the suit against the newspaper since it saw no legal grounds for closing the paper, so the case has to be dismissed. However, Judge Zhandaraw refused to grant the petition. Mikhail Pastukhow, head of the Legal Defense Center of the Belarusian Association of Journalists (BAJ), said he was not happy about the current court hearings: «The court has paid attention to the minor details. That's dragging feet on the proceedings. The Court does not want to pass a verdict in favor of the newspaper. Though the verdict is obvious. The only reason why the judge keeps deferring the definitive ruling is he does not want to act contrary to the interests of the Procurator's Office» willing to give the latter a chance to find new arguments against «Pahonia».

In the night of 12 October the editorial office of the independent newspaper «Rehianalnaya Gazeta» was broken into. Three computers, two monitors, a digital camera, two printers, a fax machine, telephones and even a cordless kettle. «Rehianalnaya Gazeta» is distributed in Minsk and Hrodna regions covering the districts of Maladechna, Vileika, Miadzel, Valozhyn, Smarhon, Astravets and Ashmiany. It has been published since 1995 and has a circulation of 8000 copies.

On 15 October the journalists of non-state periodicals were refused accreditation to cover Lukashenka's visit to Homel Regional scheduled to take place on 23 October.

On 16 October Judge Alexander Shylko ruled to the detain the human rights activist and publicist Valery Shchukin and place him in custody for 10 days for the participation in the unauthorized picket during the pro-Lukashenka All-Belarusian Popular Assembly that had taken place in July. We'd like to remind you that V. Shchukin has recently been released from the Zhodzina prison where he spent three months.

On November 1 the consideration of Alexander Labedzka's suit to the Belarusian TV and the author of the program "Secret Springs of Politics" Yury Azaronak concerning the protection of honor and dignity continued at Minsk Pershamaiski Court.

At the previous sitting, a month and a half ago, the court proposed both parties give evidence, such as the videotape of Azaronak's program that had been broadcast in March 2001. There Azaronak accused Labedzka of having attempted to illegally bring $10 000 to Belarus through the Polish-Belarusian border. The plaintiff asserts that this information is slander, demands its disapproval and moral damages worth 5 million rubles from the Belarusian State TV and 10 million rubles from Azaronak. At today's court sitting the juridical representative of Azaronak failed to provide the court with the video tape, that was done by Anatol Labedzka. The tape was considered at the court sitting. The judge granted the petition to summon the author of the program to the court and explain the origin of the information given in the broadcast. However, nobody knows when the next court sitting will take place, as judge Alena Ananich will soon be put in hospital for medical treatment, that's why another judge will continue the case consideration.

On November 12 the Supreme Economic Court of the Republic of Belarus decided to liquidate the independent newspaper "Pahonia" because of the two ruling to the newspaper, made by the State Committee on Press (at present – the Ministry of Information) and Hrodna Area Prosecutor's office. By the way, the Supreme Economic Court paid no attention to the arguments of the newspaper's editorial staff and the Ministry of Information, the latter having refused from its suit before the trial. Belarusian Association of Journalists expressed its strong protest to such decision of the court. BAJ thinks that liquidation of the newspaper is connected with Alexander Lukashenka's promise to make short work of the independent press after the end of the election. Continuation of the criminal cases against the newspapers "Pahonia" and "Rabochy", the refusal of the Supreme Economic Court to consider the suit of "Brest Courier" newspaper to the Ministry of Education concerning the illegality of the official ruling to the newspaper editorial staff are bricks of the same wall. The Universal Campaign for liberty of word "Article 19", Committee on protection of journalists' rights, International League on Human Rights and other organizations also expressed their reproof of the decision of the Supreme Economic Court of the Republic of Belarus and called the Belarusian authorities to stop the politically-natured cases against independent editions and journalists.

On November 19, more than 100 people gathered to support independent newspaper "Pahonia", closed down by the Supreme Economic Court. Unauthorized picket took place on Savetskaya Street in Hrodna ("Pahonia" is a popular Hrodna

newspaper). The picketers – “Pahonia” readers and journalists, held banners with the slogans against repression of the freedom of speech in Belarus. Immediately after the end of the picket, the police invited three picket participants, “Pahonia” editor-in-chief Mikola Markevich, and journalists Andrzej Pisalnik and Paval Mazheika, to come Hrodna Leninski Department of Internal Affairs. There the police drew up reports for violation of article 167.1 of the Code of Administrative Violations (“unauthorized picketing”). The administrative cases against Andrzej Pisalnik and Paval Mazheika will be heard tomorrow. The trial over Mikola Markevich will take place later, after he returns from Poland. “Pahonia” editor-in-chief went abroad to meet with Polish influential politicians. Mikola Markevich intends to propose the idea of hearings in Polish Parliament on the fact of closing down “Pahonia” and the attack of Belarusian officials on the freedom of speech in Belarus. .

On December 13 Pershamaiski district court partially satisfied the sue of Anatol Labedzka against film director Yury Azaronak, the author of "Secret Springs of Politics" serial. Anatol Labedzka accused Belarusian TV and Radio Company and Yury Azaronak of libel and insult of his dignity in the beginning of summer 2001. On December 13, both Yury Azaronak and the chief lawyer of Belarusian TV were present at the trial. Judge Leanid Yasinevich was hearing the case. Anatol Labedzka brought in a libel action as a result of the following story, shown in the "documentary" "Secret Springs of Politics": allegedly Anatol Labedzka and his party colleagues crossed Belarusian-Polish border and brought in a certain sum of money; the private welfare of Labedzka ostensibly increased on 8.5 thousand US dollars. Belarusian TV Channel should publicly apologize to Labedzka and pay a fine of 600 thousand Belarusian roubles (about $400). Yury Azaronak should pay a fine of 400 000 roubles (about $250). This was a decision of Pershamaiski district court. The court satisfied the suit of Anatol Labedzka. Yury Azaronak plans to complain against the court decision and "file an action to another institution".

On December 13 Mikola Markevich, editor-in-chief of recently closed down independent newspaper “Pahonia”, was fined 50 minimal wages (about 300 USD). Such decision was made by Dzmitry Dzemchanka, judge of Leninski district court of Hrodna. Mikola Markevich was fined for participation in unauthorized picketing on November 19, in protest against closing down “Pahonia”. Markevich pleaded not guilty. In his comment of the court decision, he highlighted that the Constitution guarantees the right to protest against illegal actions of the authorities. “The authorities created anti-constitutional laws and judge their political opponents on that basis. This is an evidence of amorality of the authorities”, – says Markevich.

In December Hrodna regional economic court refused to consider the suit against Smarhon Executive Board. Romuald Ulan. The founder of "Novaya Hazeta Smarhoni" (The New Paper of Smarhon) was going to sue Smarhon Executive Board for not giving him a permission to publish 2 more independent newspapers in Smarhon. The court motivated its decision by the fact, that the decision of refusal was taken personally by the head of the Board Stanislaw Yurgel. According to the legislation, it should have been taken by the Board itself. Since July 2001 Smarhon authorities have not been giving permission to Mr. Ulan to register 2 new newspapers in Smarhon – "Novaya Hazeta Astrawtsa" and "Novaya Hazeta Ashmianaw". Romuald Ulan is a founder of a newspaper "Novaya Hazeta Smarhoni", which circulation is 3 times bigger than that of an official district newspaper. Mr. Ulan was planning to temporarily publish 2 new newspapers in his Smarhon office, with the help of journalists from Ashmiany and Astravets. However, in their private talks with Ulan, the local officials mentioned that they have enough problems with now existing newspaper. That's why new newspapers would be "just another pain in the ass, which they want to avoid". Only after numerous official appeals to the local town Board, Romuald Ulan received an official reply, signed by Stanislaw Yurgel, the head of Smarhon Board. Mr. Yurgel qualifies registering new press as not expedient. Mr. Ulan is recommended to apply to the Board, which are responsible for the area, where the newspapers are supposed to be distributed. But Ashmiany and Astravets authorities refused to register the newspapers as well. Their arguments are the same: inexpedient. Local population receives enough information from the official newspapers, they say. At first Mr. Ulan filed a complaint to Hrodna regional Board, but with no results. Finally, he applied to Hrodna regional economic court. It turned out during the hearing, that only the Board (not the head on his own) is capable to refuse a founder in registering a newspaper. Romuald Ulan could, at least, be glad, that the court fee would be paid by Smarhon officials. At the present moment he is left to wait for the official decision about his newspapers, made by the Executive Board.

In December Orsha city administration (Vitebsk region) annul the entrepreneurial license of Viktar Andreyew, editor-in-chief of independent newspaper "Kutseina", for "illegal entrepreneurial activities". Viktar Andreyew was charged with violating article 154 of the Code of Administrative offences (entrepreneurial activities without appropriate license) and found guilty by Orsha city court several months ago. The court made a decision to confiscate the newspaper office equipment in the middle of the election campaign. However, Andreyew did not agree with the court decision and filed a complaint to Vitebsk region court. Vitebsk region court annulled the judgement, because of numerous violations of the trial procedures. This way, the court did not adjudicate

Andreyew guilty. According to Andreyew, Orsha administration was to fast with their decision. He is going to complain against it in the regional economic court.

ESCALATING PRESSURE ON POLITICAL AND PUBLIC ACTIVISTS, AS WELL AS DIFFERENTLY MINDED PEOPLE

On February 9 at 14-00 at Zhodzina District Procurator's office there should have been a talk with a representative of District Procurator about the case of Alaksei Padalakin who lodged an official complain to law enforcement structures on the ground of his illegal detention by the RNU (Russian National Unity organization) members and psychological pressure on the part of the "KGB" leader Mr. Piatrovich. It's necessary to say that Alaksei decided to insist not only on the presence of his parents during his interrogation (his mother Zoya Padalakina was present) but also on the presence of the civil defender Alaksei Lapitski from the human rights department of "Litsviny" Center and a member of the BHC (Belarusian Helsinki Committee) Ales Mikalaichanka – "Radio Svaboda" reporter. Strange as it may seem, none of the people who were to speak with the young man and his official representative appeared at 14-00. I.I Damaronak, the Deputy Procurator of the Zhodzina District, was half an hour late and then he denied considering this complaint submitted to the State Procurator. So we had to wait for Mr. Lisok who was very late as well. Mr. Lisok, the deputy regional procurator, was the very person we complained about to the State Procurator. And he was appointed to investigate this matter! But in this illegal situation he was not confused at all. He was two hours late and afterwards he tried not to stop the talk between Alaksei Lapitski and Ales Mikalaichanka. After several attempts of the representatives of human rights organizations to participate in the investigation the procurator decided not to talk on the subject and his representative at all, but to speak with his mother only.

The discussion was very long (more than an hour). No one was allowed to see the record of the discussion even Alaksei Padalakin himself. Mr. Lisok advised everyone to wait for the decision.

On April 14 more then 10 KGB employees late at the evening penetrated the building where the international conference organized by Belarusian Students Association. They started to check the documents of the conference participants. As it became known later they where looking for a certain man – member of Youth Information center Illa Hlybowski. The matter is that the deported Check journalist, the representative of humanitarian organization "People in need", Michal Plavec lived in his flat. The KGB people spent several hours in the Veterans palace searching for Mr. Hlybowski. They also tried to search all the rooms but the administrator didn't allow them to do it. They as well detained several people who looked like Hlybowski but let

them go when they saw the mistake. They actually failed to detain Illa Hlybowski. The representatives of BSA think that there is a danger of arrest for him.

On April 18 AMG OSCE made the appeal in which it refuses the accuses made on April 12 by the head of Belarusian KGB Leanid Yeryn about the international assistance in observation education is considered as spy recruiting. The support in education on election legislation and practice is a standard OSCE activity that was conducted during the elections of 1999/2000 in Belarus without any objections of the power… the propaganda against the international institutions spoil the international image of the country.

Since May 15 "Pahonia" newspaper has been subjected to heavy pressure from KGB. The article published on May 10, 2001 drew the attention of KGB terrorism combating department. The article "Integrators will not come to Hrodna" was written by Paval Mazheika. A fragment of a declaration of the Council of Commanders of Belarusian People's Self-defense Forces was given as an illustration to the article. The organization wasn't known before the publication. On May 15 the journalist was called to the terrorism-combating department of the local KGB. The KGB officers were extremely interested in the sources of information; they also tried to accuse Pavel of terrorism. Mikola Markevich (the editor-in-chief) and Alaksei Salei (layout) had to visit KGB the same very day. On May 17 Paval Mazheika had to come to KGB again. On May 18 A. Salei was again called to KGB, but this time to the investigation department. They had to talk to Barys Rahimaw, senior investigator, who is known for his investigation of the case of Paval Sheremet, the correspondent of a Russian TV Company, in 1998. Barys Rahimaw was not that much interested in the information about the declaration of Commanders' Council, but in the routine work of the newspaper editorial staff: how the newspaper is created, how it is financed, what kind of equipment is used in order to publish it. On May 21 journalist Paval Mazheika and Editor-in-chief Mikola Markevich were called to the KGB again - for the third time that week. This time both journalists were incriminated failure to report to KGB about the fax of the mysterious Commanders' Council. The same very day Mikola Markevich made a written declaration, refusing to talk to KGB.

On May 24 Sviatlana Hibulskaya, the proofreader, Aksana Burdziuk, the typist, and Nina Akudovich, the accountant of "Pahonia" were also invited to KGB. The regular staff of "Pahonia" has only 7 people. Such close attention of KGB will undoubtedly influence the work of the newspaper editorial staff. According to Mikola Markevich, KGB started to threaten the people in order to destabilize the work of the editorial team. This policy is aimed at the closing of the disagreeable to the authorities newspaper.

On May 22, Minsk city Pershamaiski Court started considering the suit of Vadzim Makeyew, a 4th year student of law faculty of Pinsk branch of the Institute of Management and Commerce. Vadzim told “Viasna” the following:

“On September 26, 2000 I came to the classes in Belarusian folk shirt. The same very day Valery Savinaw, the director of Pinsk branch of the institute, called me to his room and made me take the shirt off. On September 30 Savinaw reprimanded him”. On October 13 the institute authorities issued the order about the expulsion of the student V. Makeyew for “breaking the institute regulations”. Vasil Yanchuk, the deputy director, explained that Makeyew called the students to observe the Parliament election. After the mass media and public organizations stepped into the case Savinaw cancelled the order. On March 7 2001 at 7 p.m. my friends and I were detained by police for distributing the stickers. On April 6 we were called to Pinsk department of KGB. The officer kept asking what organization I belong to. He also kept asking what I was going to do in case I was expelled from the institute. In a few days a new order was issued. This time they expelled me “for missing classes with no valid reason”. This was not true, because all those days I was present in classes”. On May 22 the witnesses – 2 students and a teacher of Makeyew took the floor. Makeyew stated that he had missed only 24 classes in a year. According to the institute regulations a student can be expelled if he has missed 30 classes. The student-witnesses declared that the administration might have falsified the group register. The attorney asked for the expertise of the doubtful signatures in the register. The trial is postponed till June 10, because the judge asked the institute for additional case materials, the defense appealed to call for more witnesses. At the present moment Vadzim is not a student of the institute and cannot attend classes.

In Babruisk, in the evening of August 7, a KGB officer visited Yulia Andreyeva, a journalist of "Rabochy Babruiska" newspaper. A KGB officer was interested, who was the chairperson of "Young Front" in Babruisk, who of the Young Front members could visit Minsk on the day of explosion in the Russian Embassy, as well as personal opinion of the journalist who could organize the explosion. The journalist replied to all the questions that she knew nothing and was not a member of Young Front. In the end of the conversation, a KGB officer left his contacts to Yulia, asking to inform him in case "she learns something new".

On August 15 in Barysaw the police detained 8 picket participants. The picket was conducted in the frames of the "We Want the Truth!" campaign. The action participants walked along Barysaw streets with the portraits of the disappeared in their hands: Viktar Ganchar, Anatol Krasowski, Yury Zakharanka, and Dzmitry Zavadski.

The policeman detained 3 participants of the action. Three people were accused in "participation in an unauthorized picket" (article 167.1 of the Code of Administrative Offences). All the rest were made to write explanations. Zmitser Barodka, the chair of Barysaw branch of "Viasna", received summons to come to KGB.

On September 18 a KGB worker phoned the Belarusian Student Association. She wanted to speak to BSA Chairperson Krystsina Sidun. He said that Krystsina was summoned to the Savetski Department of Internal Affairs for a talk in presence of KGB workers.

On December 20 in Homel, as a result of threats and blackmail by KGB agents, ZUBR activist Andrei Zaitsaw committed a suicide. He was the beloved son of his mother, a real patriot of Belarus and our compatriot in resisting the dictatorship. Alexander Yewstihneew, who introduced himself as a KGB officer, has repeatedly phoned Andrei at home, spied on him and forced to meet with him. Yewstihneew showed his KGB ID, but chair of the local KGB department Anatol Tsykun denies that such an employee even exists. Through intimidation and blackmailing Yewstihneew tried to convince the young man to betray his friends. Andrei recorded one of his phone conversations with the KGB agent. For having done that the young man was attacked in the street and beaten up. They threatened him with imprisonment and physical reprisal. However, Andrei Zaitsaw refused to compromise. 24-year old young man could no longer endure psychological pressure. KGB is totally accountable for his death.

On December 27 the friends and colleagues of Andrei Zaitsaw declared, they were going to conduct independent investigation of the circumstances of his death. One of the first steps on this way was the action of protest against intimidating, recruiting, and blackmailing young people by KGB. The action was conducted on Skaryna avenue, opposite the KGB building. 20 activists of the resistance movement ZUBR stood in front of KGB building with portraits of Andrei Zaitsaw in their hands. The police did not interfere. KGB employees did not react to the protests, nobody went out of the building. Half an hour before the action, Zubrs conducted a press-conference, telling the journalists about the details of Zaitsaw's death. Other activists, who had been contacted and intimidated by KGB before, also participated in the press-conference. The police tried to break the press-conference. There were 2 police-cars and a bus with tinted windows near the place. Special service policemen were on duty near the doors of the apartment, where the press-conference took place.

PERSECUTION OF POLITICALLY ACTIVE YOUNG PEOPLE AND ACTIVISTS OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

On February 5 the police detained Paval Krasowski and Andrus Rahachewski, when they were distributing stickers, dedicated to the action on St. Valentine's day. Police officer Sabalewski referred to the order to detain everybody, who is distributing stickers or leaflets, especially teenagers. According to him, this order is related to the presidential campaign, which has ostensibly started. The policeman noted down their passport data, warned the Young Front members, that they might receive summons, and released them.

On February 8 22-year-old Dzianis Seiko and 17-year-old Valery Matskevich were arrested at 10 p. m. in Babruisk. The members of the "Young Front" organization were distributing the stickers "Zubr" and "Akcija Lubovi"(Action of Love). The report registering confiscation of the stickers from V. Matskevich was drawn up on the scene. Young people were held at the police station for two hours. On 12 February V. Matskevich with his mother were summoned to the police department of the Leninski district in Babruisk according to Article # 143 part 3. On the same day V. Matskevich's mother said to the representative of the HRC "Viasna" that the materials of this administrative case were submitted to the juvenile delinquents committee of her district.

On February 13 Mikhas Chyzhyk who was detained together with his friend Tsimokh Atroshchankaw during the night of February 11 appealed to the HRC "Viasna". He said: "We were performing the action of the "Young Front" and putting stickers "Love, Freedom, Changes!". On Belskaha Street we were detained by police and brought to the Frunzenski district police department. They drew up records".

On February 14 in Barysaw Ales Abramovich, Head of the Barysaw Council of the Social Democratic Party "Narodnaya Hramada", was put on trial. He was accused of "disrespect for court". He ignored the summons to court on January 19 and participated in the demonstration of businessmen. Judge T. Holub ordered him to pay a fine of 5 minimal wages.

On February 14 youth events dedicated to Saint Valentine's Day rolled all over Belarus.

In Minsk the event began at 17:00 at Independence Square (Ploshcha Niezaliezhnastsi). About 1500 youth gathered at the square. At the same time on Skaryna Avenue young people wearing coats with words "February 14 – Saint Valentine Day" presented paper-made hearts with congratulations to the people passing by. As son as a reasonable number of participants had gathered at Freedom Square, people there raised

a white-red-white flag and the flag of the European Union. They headed to Skaryna Avenue shouting the slogans "Long Live Belarus!" and "Belarus into Europe!", marched along the pavements to Victory Square (Ploshcha Peramohi), from where most participants went home.

People dressed as civilians attacked two young guys at Victory Square metro station. Moreover, two other guys were detained at Freedom Square. We also have information relating to some other people detained at other metro stations on their way home. Before the event began at Freedom Square, Anatol Labedzka, Head of the United Civil Party, was detained after requesting the name of a cameraman who was dressed as a civilian. The question was not answered, A. Labedzka was taken into a special bus. The human rights activist Valery Shchukin rushed to help him. As a result the policemen had to let A. Labedzka go.

People dressed in mufti as well as the uniformed policemen supervised the event. The HRC "Viasna" observers noticed in the backyards of Skaryna Avenue and Valadarski Street buses with special police squad in helmets and with shields. There were a lot of out-of-uniform policemen filming the action and "working in the crowd". An observer of HRC "Viasna" overheard two people in civilian clothes deciding by radio whether to detain people. The words were: "Siwchyk (Deputy Head of the Belarusian Popular Front "Renaissance") left a couple of minutes ago… Shall we get him?"

In Babruisk youth visited the city executive authorities and congratulated the heads of the district executive committees on the Day of Love. The heads of executive committees appreciated the wishes of the Babruisk youth greatly. At 17:00 about 200 young people gathered at Victory Square and marched to Lenin Square. Marching through the city they presented people in the street with ceramic hearts wishing them a good Saint Valentine's Day. They arranged some fireworks near the City Central Post-office. The police supervised the participants.

In Vitebsk on February14 the Vitebsk branch of the "Young Front" organization carried out a mass unauthorized event "Love, Freedom, Changes!" Although the city authorities allowed the "Young Front" to conduct the event only on the suburbs of the city, it happened in the very center.

The event started at 17:00. About 200 gathered at Ratusha Square. "Young Front" activists wished all the people a good Saint Valentine's Day, were giving away hearts and condoms. In an hour 600 hearts and 300 condoms were distributed at the square. The police couldn't find any reasonable cause to detain the participants. Anyway, they tried

because they didn't like the white-red-white flag above the participants. The run-up to the performance was interesting as well. No drug store was able to provide the necessary quantity of condoms. And you may imagine the face of a shop assistant asked to sell some 300 condoms. Beside the "Young Front" the Vitebsk branch of the "Belarusian Students' Union" took part in the event. The Youth Information Center "Kontur" helped to organize the performance.

In Mahilow the march of youth took place. Members of the "Young Front", United Civil Party, "Maladaya Hramada" and the Youth Union "Ahmen" participated. About 50 people under white–red-white flags marched from Lenin street to Lenin Square presenting hearts to people in the streets. At Lenin square near the KGB building they made a live "heart" from the participants with lights in their hands. The local TV cameraman was filming the event.

In Svetlahorsk members of the Youth Coalition were congratulating people in the center of the city and giving them hearts with words "Love, Freedom, Changes!". The disco under the same slogan was organized in the evening.

In Homel members of the youth union "Hart" and "Young Front" were presenting students and pupils with hearts on February 14 morning. In Hrodna the youth from the "Changes!" coalition wished Siamion Domash a happy Saint Valentine's Day and presented him with a jacket featuring congratulations and with a video "Sea of Love". At 17:00 the members of the "Changes!" coalition of the "Young Front" presented the inhabitants of Hrodna with hearts wishing them love. In the evening they held a Belarusian disco under the "Love, Freedom, Changes!" slogan.

In Lida people were congratulated in the central streets in the evening.

In Vawkavysk at 17:00 members of the "Young Front" and "Litsviny" youth organization were giving away hearts with Bible quotations about love and words "Love, Freedom, Changes!"

In Slutsk members of the "Young Front" were congratulating people in several districts. They were giving them hearts and a special issue of the "Changes!" bulletin.

In Navapolatsk at Budawnikow Square members of youth organizations were presenting hearts and a special issue of the "Changes!" bulletin. They were not allowed to carry out the event near the Town Palace of Culture.

In Vileika youth were giving hearts to the inhabitants.

In Brest 50 members of youth organizations were presenting people with hearts, "Changes!" bullet-paper and calendars. The action was prohibited by the city authorities. The official explanation was the epidemic situation with flew. In Rechytsa members of "Young Front" and United Citizen Party were wishing students and pupils happy Saint Valentine Day giving them hearts, a special issue of "Changes!" bulletin and the youth paper "Zialonka". The concerts of Andrei Melnikaw in the music school and the teachers' training college were dedicated to the holiday.

In Barysaw about 30 members of the "Young Front" and "Maladaya Hramada" dressed in special clothes were giving away hearts, calendars and copies of the "Changes!" bulletin. Young people were working in two groups: in a student district housing many colleges, and near the market.

In Krychaw organizers were not allowed to carry out the event in Kamsamolski Avenue and were sent to the outskirts of the town – to Victory Park. The young people didn't agree and carried out the event in Kamsamolski Avenue wishing people a happy Valentine's Day.

In Orsha the representatives of the youth organizations "Young Front", the Belarusian Students Union, "Zviaz" were congratulating students throughout the day.

In Slonim the event began on February 11. Members of the "Young Front" and youth union "Vetraz" were presenting people with hearts and chewing gums.

In Zhodzina on February 11 the Belarusian rock-disco under white-red-white flags was organized by the "Young Front", "Litsviny", the Scouts' Union "White Wolfs", a rock club "Country of Freedom". After the disco the local youth were giving away paper-made hearts.

In Pinsk on February 14 night several white-red-white flags appeared on tall buildings in the town center.

In Horki a white-red-white flag could be seen in the morning on the water-pump tower.

In Navasady the passengers of the Minsk-Barysaw railway line could see the big white-red-white flag on the water-pump tower near the railway station. In Radashkovichy a small march took place. Several dozens of "Young Front" members marched from Belmastatskeramica enterprise to the town park. They were presenting people with hearts and a special issue of the "Changes!" bulletin.

Members of youth organizations of Horky, Biarozy, Maladechna, Baranavichy, Pastavy, Niasvizh, Sharkawshyna, Smarhon, Kokhanava were wishing people a happy Saint Valentine Day in the center of their cities. They were presenting

people hearts and a special issue of the "Changes!" bulletin.

On February 14 at night (after the end of the action and till morning) the police blocked the Belarusian Popular Front "Renaissance" office. Lieutenant-colonel Girel requested entrance to the office and the surrender of Pavel Seviarynets. Girel said that he was looking for Seviarynets in connection with the protest "Changes!" of November 12. By 11 o'clock some journalists and OSCE representatives gathered near the office. It was open the police came inside together with the journalists. Then Alaksei Shein held a press conference.

According to the "Young Front" information on February 15 6 people were detained and 2 schoolboys were beaten in Minsk. Young people don't want their names to appear in the press because they are afraid their schools administration will punish them.

On February 23 on the so-called Day of Motherland Defenders, the members of the Belarusian Students Association and the Young Front carried out a few actions near several Minsk universities. Young people dressed in the military uniform were distributing plastic toy guns and "summonses" to Chechnya among students. The summons said that they are obliged to serve in the unified Russian-Belarusian army to deepen the integration with the fraternal people. The summonses were signed: "Commander-in-Chef L. Kashenka".

Belarusian anarchists supported the protest action by burning their military registration cards near the building of the Minsk Regional Recruiting Office.

On February 28 the mother of the under-aged Valery Matskevich detained for posting of stickers inviting to the youth action devoted to the St. Valentine's Day was summoned to the juvenile committee. Basing on Article No. 143.3 of Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Belarus Mr. Kazhamiaka, the committee chairman, ruled that she should pay 3 600 Belarusian rubles (one minimal salary). It's worth mentioning that if the committee sitting had been carried out a day later, Matskevich's mother would have had to pay 5 700, as on March 1 the minimal salary was increased.

On March 1, 2001 the law faculty of the Belarusian State University received an official letter from the General Procurator's Office signed by Viktar Sheiman. The letter

said that due to the changes in the legislation, in 2001 the number of workers of the Procurator's office would increase. The thing is that according to the new Criminal Code of Practice the guilty verdict is to be prepared by prosecution rather than by investigators. Earlier the Procurator's Office only took 50 graduates of the Law Faculty, now it will need 125. One should take into consideration that only about 20 graduates will be left in Minsk, the others will be sent to work in regions. That's why the General Procurator's office recommends the Law Faculty Administration to explain to the students the necessity of their work in the prosecution. Maybe, we now witness the beginning of the obligatory employment for the law graduates.

On March 3 two teenagers –Alexander Strakach and Siarhei Zhubila were detained at the "Centralny" bus station in Brest for sticking the stickers "Zubr". They were brought into the Maskowski district police department and briefly interrogated. The questions were simple: " Who is the main "Zubr"? How much are you paid?" The policemen threatened to put them in prison for three years. At last the teenagers were put on record and released after their parents signed the papers.

On March 4, members of Young Front congratulated policemen on their professional holiday. Though the authorities always oppose the police to youngsters during meetings, processions, and other street events – they are not enemies for one another. Moreover: they have to live in the same country and work together for its future.

On March 6 Young Front members carried out the action with the symbolic name "Payment for BT promotion". The thing is that recently the Young Front has been mentioned many times in the Belarusian TV program "Resonance" in negative contexts. Since every mentioning on TV can be considered as promotion, members of the Young Front decided to pay for it: they gathered 288 rubles (app. 20 cents) and put it to the special account number in Belarusian bank – "Donations for "Resonance" broadcast. They brought the counterfoil to the BT administration.

On March 8 the police detained Zmitser Kaspiarovich, Alaksei Talstow and Aleh Khrulakowski near the Kamarowski market in Minsk. The fellows were distributing leaflets congratulating women on the Women's Day. The leaflets also mentioned that one shouldn't forget about the first lady of Belarus, Halina Lukashenka. People should return her husband back home as a gift. The detainees were then set free without the composition of reports.

On March 14 Hanna Ziuzina, an activist of Young Front, was expelled from university. Hanna was a 4th year student of Philology Faculty. She took an active part in

the boycott of the parliamentary elections campaign in the autumn'2000. In October 2000 the university administration expelled her from the faculty. Hanna complaint to court, which ruled in her favor, and she was reinstated in her studies. However, in spring she was expelled again. The Young Front activist is sure that the university administration continues to pressure her for her political activities.

On March 15 the Minsk Procurator’s office found the actions of policemen from the Minsk Maskowski District Department of Internal Affairs (DDIA) towards the participants of the December 10 celebration, illegal. The thing is that during the peaceful event in Francysk Skaryna Avenue devoted to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the police detained two of the action participants, Yu. Ziankovich and S. Skameika. The detainees were taken to the Maskowski DDIA. The police confiscated the cloaks with the portraits of the disappeared people the detained people were wearing. Then Yu. Ziankovich and S. Skameika were set free without composition of reports. After that they appealed to the Procurator’s office against the illegal actions of the police and received the following answer: “On the results of the internal investigation on February 20, 2001 for the illegal actions of the Maskowski DDIA workers an oral admonition was made to police lieutenant A. Newmiarzhytski, the major on-duty officer of the Maskowski DBIA, police major Boltashaw was deprived of 25% of the monthly salary bonus for February. You can also apply to Maskowski DBIA for returning of the confiscated belongings. You can also apply to court for reimbursement of moral and material damages done”.

On March 15 in Barysaw an event supporting Anatol Tsialezhnikaw (sentenced to 15 days of imprisonment) took place. Young people went out into the street. In their hands they were holding Anton’s portraits and also distributed the special number of “Nasha Svaboda” devoted to people’s disappearances in Belarus. During the event the police detained Zmitser Barodka, Chairman of the Barysaw PA HRC “Viasna” branch, and Zmitser Fiadorchanka. The detainees were taken to the local police station, wrote explanatory notes and were released in an hour.

On March 15 members of the Young Front carried out an unauthorized event devoted to the Constitution Day. They congratulated passers-by on the holiday and handed out booklets “Constitution-2001”. Without any warnings the police detained Ruslan Kharkevich and Kiryl Rawtovich. The detained were pulled into a police car and taken to a police station. The youngsters were indignant with the policemen’s actions. Then they went to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Belarus, congratulated its workers on the holiday and protested against the detention of their fellows. Policemen with video cameras followed the event participants all the time. The members of the Young Front also visited the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the General Procurator’s office,

the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other State bodies. The detainees were set free approximately in two hours after the detention

On March 16 two young Danish participants of the youth seminar were detained in Babruisk for the violation of the foreign citizens registration procedure. The detained are the members of the "Lustrada" (Liberal youth of Denmark) NGO came to Belarus to take part in the seminar with pure youth topic "the peculiarities of the contacts in youth groups". The seminar organized by the "Civic Forum" started on March 15. On March 16 at 14:00 the representatives of the City visas and registration department and Leninski district police department and checked the passports. The Danes were detained, brought to the police department and put on record on the article 185 of the Administrative Code – violation of the order of foreign citizens living on the territory of Belarus. The organizer of the seminar Tatiana Kopets was called to the deputy head of the executive committee Harbachow, who asked her: "Who allowed the seminar without the permission of the executive committee?"

On March 22, in Mazyr the police detained students of Mazyr Teacher's Institute Yury Maskalevich and Ales Pinchuk. When detained, the students had stickers "Freedom Day" and "Stop Luka" on them. The police found political graffiti on the wall and pain near the place of detention. The policemen took the students to the police station and forced to give written explanations. Yury Maskalevich and Ales Pinchuk were charged under Art. 156 of the Administrative Offences Code (disorderly conduct). The policemen interrogated the guys, demanding to name the people who gave them stickers and paint and "ordered to make graffiti on the walls".

On March 24 the youth coalition "Litsviny" organized 7 pickets in Zhodzina and Smalavichy. The pickets (4 in Zhodzina and 3 in Smalavichy) were conducted simultaneously. The coalition "Litsviny" consists of youth democratic organizations from the region (Belarusian Youth Association "Litsviny", Young Front, Belarusian Language Society youth, Belarusian Popular Front and others). During the picket, the participants distributed Universal Declaration of Human Rights, leaflets, calling for changes and asking youth to come to the polls, newspapers. The picketers collected signatures for creation of the National University in Minsk.

On March 29 Young Front activists protested against expansion of the Russian capital to the Belarusian market. In particular, they protested against the intentions of "Baltyka" brewery to buy Belarusian brewery "Krynitsa". Young Front members poured Russian beer on the ground and drank Belarusian beer as a deliberate protest.

On March 24 Vitebsk coalition of youth organizations conducted a picket, dedicated to the problems of young people. The picket lasted for 1 hour and started at 1 p.m. at Lenin Square. Representatives of Young Front, Belarusian Students Association, Center of Youth Initiatives "Kontur", "Belarusian Musical Alternative", United Civic Party youth, and other organizations participated in the action. The picket participants held many posters and a banner: "Young People Demand Changes!" Passers-by expressed their support to the picketers.

On April 1 four activists of the Young Front were going to Moscow by train. In Orsha KGB workers and criminal police officers entered their compartment. They searched the fellows and found the text of the treaty of unity between Belarus and Russia. Then Pavel Miahkow (one of the four fellows) was taken off the train and to the police station at the Orsha railway station. There he was registered as a detainee, kept for some time and then released.

On April 4 in Minsk Young Front members carried out an action in support of the Russian TV-company NTV.

On April 5 the administrative case against the leader of Young Front Pavel Seviarynets was considered. He was accused of violation of the second part of Article No. 167.1 of Code of Administrative Offences (organization of an unauthorized procession). Judge Natalla Vaitsiakhovich sentenced the defendant to 10 days of imprisonment.

On April 10 Young Front activists handed out "Message to Belarusian People from the President of National Olympic Committee of All Slavs" to Minsk passers-by. The message says, that president couldn't do much for the people for 7 years of his rule, because "the president is hindered by my own people. My people did not justify my trust, and I do not trust this people". The action, conducted by Young Front in different parts of Minsk, was timed to the annual speech of Lukashenka in the parliament. The participants of the action, which took place opposite Lukashenka's residence, managed to walk almost to Independence Square. Here presidential security service employees detained under age Dzianis Nalibok and Ivan Tamashevich. The guys were taken to a police station. The police drew up reports for distribution unregistered printed materials. In 2 hours the guys were released.

On April 16 in Finance and Economy College (Chyrvonaya St.) the security detained Raman Lawkowski (“Zubr” activist). He was distributing fliers “Be a Zubr!” among students. In the fliers there were the basic principles of this unregistered youth movement: “We refuse violence. Our way is a non-violent resistance to the regime. We don’t divide Belarusian citizens in our people and enemies”.

On April 18 the trial against "Young Front" leader Paval Seviarynets, was postponed till May 3. The case is considered according to the article 167.10 of the administrative code (activities of the unregistered organization – they mean "Young Front") the consideration will take place in the Savetski district court, the judge – Ruslan Kazadaew

On April 21 noon 20 members of the "young front" marched "The last march to Banhalor" – park and square far from Minsk center, where the officials usually send the participants of the opposition actions. They were holding the "slogans" without words – just white pieces of fabric. On Chyrvonaya and Very Kharuzhai crossroads police on the order of the person in civil suit confiscated the «slogans». Then the participants were followed by policemen along their route. They brought the sign "the foot of the opposition will never step here again" but didn't manage to put it – the police detained them. The independent journalist Dzianis Nosaw was taken together with them, his film was taken out of the camera and spoiled. The detained were soon released but called to the court on April 25 (no one was sentenced that day – the consideration was postponed)

On April 21, at 6 p.m. ZUBR youth resistance movement organized the "public celebration" of the UNO mental health day in Horky Park. The name of the celebration was "Final Diagnosis". The idea of the organizers from "Zubr" movement was simple: they wanted to draw the attention of the public to the fact that a sick person was leading the country. "Our Freedom" newspaper recently touched the topic by publishing the diagnosis to A. Lukashenka by doctor Z. Shchyhelski based on president speeches, behavior and biography. The diagnosis is "random psychopath" with the domination of 2 types of the sickness. The action began 15 minutes late and totally unexpected: the part of the youth in the crowd put on the white dress (and the majority the masks with the mustaches as well). In a few places the performers appeared – the "sick people" and the "doctors". The "nurses" with toy hammers were "examining" everybody who was willing to do it, the guys on the bench were playing the favorite game of the president – hockey (just a table one), the competition of "crazy night scream of the dictator" was going on nearby, just a step away you could make a photo with a "random psychopath" – a guy in the mask and with the sleeves tightened behind his back. Many employees of the special services were present in the park dressed in civil suit. They started to detain the participants after 19:00 more than 20 people were already detained, gradually the amount of the detained nearly doubled – 38 people. . The majority of the detained were let go during the night, half of them were called to court. 16 people were brought to the prison on Akrestina Street at 4 a.m.…

Following people were detained on April 21, "mental health day" action:

1.Iryna Towstsik – brutally beaten, put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court.

2. Piotr Sadowski – put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court. 3.Andrei Vadzimaw – put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court.

4. Katsia Shaban. The policemen were beaten her head to the wall till she was unconscious. The ambulance was called to police department and brought Katsia to the hospital with "Brain shake" diagnosis. 5.Jaugen Afnahel – put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court. Suffer from a heart disease. 6.Paval Yukhnevich. 7.Maksim Abramchuk

8.Antos Sialawka – put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court. 9.Dzianis Artsiushkevich – put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court.

10.Fiadoskin – put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court.

11. Siarhei Pianykh – put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court.

12. Sasha Bohan – put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court. 13. Iryna Pawluchenka

14. Viktar Mukhin (radio "Ratsya")

15.Maryja Babkina – put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court. 16.Vital Baltow – put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court. 17.Volha Buraya – put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court. 18. Maria Danilava, retired, 65 years old, put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court.

19.Uladzimir Drazdow. Suffers from the heart disease. Put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court. 20. Alaksei Kamenski, under aged, came from Vitebsk. Put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court.

21.Aliaksandr Kachan put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court. 22.Natalla Krawchuk, under aged, came from Vitebsk. Put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court.

23.Yaraslaw Stseshyk put to the detention center on Akrestsina Street till the court. 24.Nasta Chernik

24. Tatsiana Snitko (released after showing her journalist ID)

26.Zmitser Harbunow

27.Matvienka was beaten to the head. 28. Darya Radkevich

29.Tatsiana Kuchko

30.Vital Rymashewski

31.Tatsiana Emelianava

32. Tatsiana Marozava (Brutally beaten)

The following people were detained during the action “The last march to Banhalor” on April 21:

1. Andrei Pawlowski (under aged)
2. Mikhal Shawtsow
3. Zmitser Yatchenia
4. Ales Trusaw
5. Ales Krulakowski
6. Alaksei Shein
7. Alaksei Talstow
8. Dzianis Markhatok
9. Tsimokh Atroshchankaw
10. Ivan Tsimashevich
11. Stasia Basava (released after showing the journalist ID)
12. Ivan Shablinski
13. Siarhei Stramkowski
14. Iryna Viatkina
15. Zmitser Kaspiarovich
16. Ruslan Kharkevich
17. Aleh Miadvedzew

18. Lavon Anchalowski

All of them who are over 18 were called to the Partyzanski district police department. All of them will be tried; the cases of the under aged will be considered in the local juvenile delinquency commissions.

Following people were kept in the detention center after the “Mental health day” action from 21st till 25th of April:

1.Iryna Towstsik

2. Piotr Sadowski

3.Jaugen Afnahel

4. Siarhei Pianykh

5. Sasha Bohan

6. Maria Danilava (retired)

7.Uladzimir Drazdow

8.Juaraslau Stseshyk

9. Darya Radkevich

10. Namik Akhadaw

11. Kanstantsinaw

12. Vital Strui

13. Andrei Krywko

14.Raman Karpovich

15. K. Fidelmann

16. Valery Zherbin

On April 22 Dzianis Artsiushkevich and Antos Sialawka were taken to hospital from the detention center. On the action both of them jumped to Svislach River and froze the kidneys.

On April 25 the participants of the “Mental Health Day” action were put to trial. All of them who had already been imprisoned for three day were sentenced to three days of

administrative arrest. All, who got calls to court and came there that day, were sentenced to 20 minimal wages fine (about 90$) or warned. All cases were considered according to the article 167.1 part 1 of the administrative code. 16 detained “Zubrs” were brought to Partyzanski district court of Minsk (Stakhanawskaya, 7) from the detention center where they spent a weekend. The trials didn’t start in time. The cases hadn’t been transferred from Partyzanski district police department. So everyone had to wait: the detained, the defenders and the representatives of non-governmental organizations. The sentences don’t vary much:

1.Iryna Towstsik – three days of arrest

2.Uladzimir Drazdow. – three days of arrest

3.Juaraslau Stseshyk – three days of arrest

4. Sasha Bohan – three days of arrest

5. Darya Radkevich – three days of arrest

6. Namik Akhadaw – three days of arrest

7.Kanstantsinau – three days of arrest

8. Raman Karpovich– three days of arrest

9. Antos Sialawka – 20 minimal wages fine

10.Dzianis Artsiushkevich – 20 minimal wages fine

11.Iryna Pawluchenka – warning

12. Piotr Sadowski – warning

13. Katsia Shaban. – warning

14.Volha Buraya – warning

15. Maria Danilava, –warning

16.Nasta Chernik – warning

17.Tatsiana Kuchko – warning

18. Tatsiana Marozava – warning

19. Ales Apranich – warning

20. Fidelmann K.L. – warning

21. Vital Strui – warning

22. Andrei Krywko – warning

23. Zmitser Ivanenka – warning

24. Yawhen Afnahel –the court postponed till May 7

25. Siarhei Pianykh – the court postponed till May 3

26. Valery Zherbin – the court postponed till May 7

On April 25 in the court of Savetski district of Minsk the trials against the "Young Front" members began. We may remind that all participants over 18 were called to court at 10:00, April 25. but the considerations were postponed as they demanded the defense.

1. Lavon Achapowski – the court postponed till April 26

2. Mikhal Shawtsow – the court postponed till April 27

3. Zmitser Kaspiarovich – the court postponed till May 2

4. Zmitser Yashchenia – the court postponed till May 2

5. Ales Tarasaw – the court postponed till May 3

6. Alaksei Shein – the court postponed till May 2

On May 2 Savetski district court of Minsk continued the trials against the "Young Front" members, who were detained on April 21:

1. Mikhal Shawtsow – warned

2. Zmitser Kaspiarovich – the court postponed till May 3

3. Zmitser Yashchenia – the court postponed till May 11

4. Alaksei Shein – warned

On May 7, Day of radio and TV workers, the Young Front carried out "March of Spies". At 6 p.m. about 50 members of the Young Front in "spy clothes" (black glasses, black cloaks, black jackets, headphone in one ear, etc.) gathered near the building of the Belarusian TV-radio Company. Accompanied by music from the film "Seventeen moments of spring", the "young Stirlitzs" passed their gifts to the company: they carried in some

pasteboard TV-sets with maybugs and emptied them on the table of the duty officer. After that they marched in file along Francysk Skaryna Avenue, being followed by police buses. Policemen, with the Head of Pershamaiski DBIA at the head tried to stop "March of Spies" for several times. However, the spies managed to break through. "Men in Black" turned on music from "Mission Impossible-2" and went further, to the center of the capital, causing surprise and amusement among the passers-by. In such a manner they reached the building of Belarusian TV-radio Company in Chyrvonaya street, and passed there another set of gifts: an audio cassette with songs from the soviet movie about Stirlitz and a bottle of Coca-Cola as a sign of the Western lifestyle. At that time the police tried to detain Pavel Seviarynets and provoke a fight: they hit Pavel and a number of other Young Front Members. They also tried to prevent the journalists from photographing all these events. When the procession went out, Pavel Seviarynets was seized and taken to Pershamaiski DBIA, where he was kept for about 3 hours.

At 10 a.m. on May 8 the court sitting concerning the administrative case against the leader of Young Front Pavel Seviarynets took place. He was accused of acting on behalf of an unregistered organization (Malady Front is meant), which is a violation of the first part of Article No. 167-10. But the trial was postponed to May 16, as the defendants advocate solicited for the summons of the parents of the under-aged Yukhnovich detained during the football match "Belarus-Norway" for distribution of fly-sheets of the Young Front, in the capacity of witnesses.

On May 10 in Partyzanski District Court the cases of two participants of the action-performance "The Day of Psychological Health" were considered. The trials were postponed from May 7 to May 10 as Siarhei Pianykh and Valery Zherbin appealed to Partyzanski District Prosecutor's office. They were accused of having violated the second part of Article No. 167.1 of the Code of Administrative Offences (repeated participation in an unauthorized action within a year).

Siarhei Pianykh was sentenced to 10 days of imprisonment. Valery Zherbin's case hasn't been considered. We should also remind that Yawhen Afnahel whose case was considered on May 7, 2001 was sentenced to 3 days of arrest on the first part of Article 167.1 (participation in an unauthorized action), which he spent in a detention center before the trial.

In the evening of May 13 2 girls from the Vitebsk Youth Branch of the United Civic Party (UCP) Iryna Baidak and Natalla Zavadskaya, their guest Eduard Bokhan (Hrodna resident) came to a public transport stop (situated opposite the festival amphitheater) with many people standing there. In their hands they held two flags and a sheet of paper

featuring the topic of the poll. They gathered signatures under the flags. In half an hour, they had an argument with the police, trying to prove it wasn't a picket but a poll. After that the youngsters were forcibly taken to the Vitebsk Chyhunachny Department of Internal Affairs. The detention reports were drawn up, the poster with the signatures (39 for the white-red-white flag, 11 – for the red-green) was confiscated.

On May 16 the consideration of the administrative case against Pavel Seviarynets, the leader of the "Young Front", was continued at the Minsk Savetski District Court. The trial was postponed to May 18 because of absence of the witness, summoned by the defendant's advocate. Pavel Seviarynets was accused of violation of Article 167 part 10 of the Administrative Code – usage of a name of an unregistered organization (the Young Front is meant). Advocate Tsurko summoned the witness, the father of the under-aged Yukhnevich, who had been detained with the leaflets of the "Young Front" during the football match "Norway-Belarus", didn't come to the court. Judge Ruslan Kazadayew was mad and banged his fist on the table. Then he postponed the trial. If found guilty, Pavel Seviarynets could be sentenced to up to 15 days of imprisonment.

On May 17 in Barysaw town railway station the police detained Zmitser Sidorchanka and Siarhei Padzolka who were distributing the unregistered newspaper "ZUBR". According to the information of Zmitser Barodka, the representative of "Viasna" in Barysaw, they were detained at 1.05 p.m. and taken to the Barysaw Town Board of Internal Affairs. Most probably, the detainees will have to bear administrative responsibility on Article 172 part 3 of the Administrative Code – "distribution of printed editions, issued with violation of the established order, containing no issue data and aimed at damaging the State and public order, rights and legal interests of the citizens". According to the law, one could be warned or fined (up to five minimal wages) with confiscation of the printed matter.

On May 18 the members of the Babruisk Branch of the Young Front celebrated the "Museums' Day". First of all, they congratulated the city museums, such as the museum of victims of political repression and ethnographic museum. At 3 p.m. they congratulated the heads of the museums, where they were met with a great surprise and gratitude. At 3.30 p.m. the first performance, devoted to the holiday, began near "Babruisk Hosiery" factory. Similar performances were acted near the Babruisk Branch of Belarusian State Economic University and in Victory Square. The actions ended without any incidents.

On May 19-20 in Navapolatsk, the Center of Youth Initiatives "Kontur" organized a round table for local youth organizations. The participants discussed the role of the elections in the process of functioning of the State institutions, electoral legislation and

organization of mass actions, learned the experience of the non-political campaigns in Serbia, Croatia, Slovakia and the Ukraine. Ales Mikhalevich, Chairman of the Board of the Youth Informational Center, who was present at the round-table, told about the role of the youth NGOs in the pre-electoral process and the nearest YIC plans. Participants of the round-table also worked out a strategy for the mobilizing campaign, and worked out the plan of mobilizing actions in Navapolatsk and the region.

On May 20, 2001 the Vitebsk Branch of the Young Front carried out a performance under the slogan “Hole Mr. Moustache”. The action started at 6 p.m. at the bus stop, situated in the central square of the city. There a stand with the portrait of the “country’s top hockey-player” was established, under which there was a hole. In order to win, one should roll a boll into the hole with a hockey stick. The prize was a Chupa-chups candy. Several dozens of people tried their luck. The action lasted for an hour. Strangely enough, there was no provocation from police. According to one of the performance organizers, Janis Chuchman, the aim of the action was to show the youth that it’s time to take the initiative in sport and in politics as well. The action was organized with the assistance of the Center of Youth Initiatives “Kontur”.

On May 21, 2001 Valery Zherbin, the participant of the performance “Day of Psychical Health” was tried in the Minsk Partyzanski District Court. He was accused of violation of Article 167.1 part 2 (repeated participation in an unauthorized meeting within a year). Valery Zherbin was found guilty and sentenced to 10 days of imprisonment.

On May 22 Barysaw police detained 7 representatives of the youth resistance movement “Zubr” on the local soccer stadium. The police detained the young people during the soccer match of the local team “BATE” with “Tarpeda-Minsk”. “BATE” won the match and happy Barysaw Zubrs (bisons) greeted their team with the flags with the image of white bisons on the black field. The police detained them, took them to the police station, made them write down an explanation for their behavior and released him in 1.5 hours.

On May 24 Ales Karneyenka, the leader of the United Civic Party youth branch, and his friends were detained for the distribution of leaflets with this slogan. The police detained 3 people. The young people were detained during the action “Only for TV viewers”. The action participants distributed small booklets near the “Kastrychnik” Movie Theater. The slogan on the booklets was “The Presidential election is coming, It’s high time to switch the channel”. Several policemen with sub-machine-guns, who took the orders of the person dressed in civil clothes, detained them. According to Karneyenka,

"Nobody introduced themselves to them officially". After having spent a few hours in the police office they were released. The policemen drew up a report on Karneyenka for violation of the sanitary norms.

On June 1 five participants of the action "Share your smile" were detained in Horki. The Horki branch of «Young Front» in the frames of the mobilization campaign conducted the event on the Day of Children. About 50 children gathered in the place of the action – Horki Centralny Park. The action participants presented them with balloons and Belarusian books. They conducted an asphalt picture contest, other games and quizzes. The children were given "Nestserka" newspaper, and their parents – the special issue of "Narodnaya Vola" about the disappeared politicians, and leaflets, calling people to come to the ballots in the upcoming presidential election. The action lasted for 1 hour and was stopped by the head of Horki District Board of Internal Affairs personally, who detained 5 participants. He refused to say the reason of detention. The children couldn't understand where and why the police took the organizers of the game, which they liked so much.

In the night of May 31 and June 1 the police detained 4 Zubr activists near the building of Partyzanski district administration. There was graffiti "ZUBR" on the building. The activists of ZUBR Tsimokh Dranchuk, Alaksei Shydlowski, Iryna Towstsik, and Ihar Siuld were detained. The detainees were taken to the police station, where they were accused in anti-sanity and kept there for over 12 hours, which is illegal.

On June 1 the police took Tsimokh Dranchuk to the detention center on Akrestsina Street in Minsk. Centralny District Court made its decision in the absence of Tsimokh – 15 days of arrest (for participation in the action of March 25 – article 167.1 of the Administrative Code). The trial in the absence of the charged is illegal. Such cases should be heard only if the accused is present. The complaint on the fact of legislation violation has been sent to the chair of Minsk City Court and to Centralny district Prosecutor.

At 10.30 p.m. on June 14 the police detained under aged Zmitser Tsiarentsew for posting fly-sheets of Young Front and Belarusian Freedom Party. He was taken to Rechytsa Town Police Department. The policemen confiscated the fly-sheets, a number of "Zubr" stickers, 15 copies of the youth bulletin "Zialonka" and the informational edition "Rechytsa Review", as well as personal belongings: a notebook and two copy-books. After he gave written explanations, he was let go (at 11.30 p.m.). The policemen offered him to come the following day, so they could draw up a report of detention, but he decided not to go there without the written call-up. At night (1 p.m.) the policemen came up to his flat to "have a talk" with his mother. She however, didn't open the door, having the legal ground for that, as they didn't have any warrant. The police had to leave

On June 15 the police under the supervision of major-sergeant Danilkow detained three under aged Zmitser Tsiarentsew, Yawhen Markowski and Mikola Zhmakin. Several policemen came up to the boys who were waiting for a bus, and demanded to show what was in their bag. They didn't show any documents and didn't introduce themselves. There were a number of "Zubr" stickers and Zialonka" bulletins in the bag. After that the boys were taken to a police point without being explained the reasons for the detention. The policemen forced them to sign the reports of detention and ignored the requests to phone the parents. Soon there arrived a number of people in civil clothes who said they were from KGB. All the detainees were taken to separate rooms for "talks". The KGB workers attempted to pressure them. After this juvenile inspector Andrei Malakhowski started to take explanations from Zmitser Tsiarentsew. In some time Zmitser's mother arrived to the police with a public representative. She found the place where the son was kept, having called to the police, being anxious about the son's absence. The inspector had to take the explanations from Yawhen Markowski and Mikola Zhmakin in the presence of Zmitser's mother and the public representative. The policemen let the boys go after Zmitser's mother signed a paper. Parents of the under aged are going to appeal to Prosecutor' s office against the illegal actions of the police and the juvenile inspector.

In the night of June 22-23 Vitebsk Young Front members conducted another action in the frames of "The City Is Ours!" campaign. Three hour before dawn stickers with this phrase, as well as stickers with orange son – the symbol of Get Out the Vote campaign – appeared everywhere, in the very "heart" of Vitebsk: on Lenin Street, Zamkavaya Street, Charnaikhowski Ave., Maskowski Ave., Chkalaw Street… Activists worked simultaneously in several parts of the city, including the very outskirts.

On June 26 Young Front conducted the action, devoted to the Day of Prosecution Employees,. Paval Seviarynets, the chairman of Young Front, told us the following: “We were collecting signatures for a mythical candidate # 23 (actually, there are 22 candidates now) near the buildings of district prosecution offices. We wanted to draw the attention of, first of all, employees of the prosecution offices, as well-as passers-by, to the problem of disappearing of people in Belarus. Then we wanted to hand over the signatures to the Prosecutor General Viktar Sheiman. The action went without incidents. The only thing that surprised us was that no one among prosecution employees signed the paper, although practically all passers-by, and even 1 police officer, left their signatures for the candidate, who wouldn’t let the people disappear”.

On June 30 – July 1 in Navapolatsk the 12th Festival «Rock-Kola 2001» («Rock-ring»2001) took place. About 30 bands participated in it. With every new festival «Rock-

Kola» becomes larger and larger. In perspective it can change its status from regional to international. This time there were two bands from Russia. The 12th Festival was carried out under the slogan «Rock Is Your Choice». Actually, «rock-cola» has become one of the first actions, directed at urging people to vote at the upcoming presidential election. As one of the organizers, Head of Navapolatsk Center of Youth Initiatives «Svaroh» Siarhei Balai said, the local authorities treated this action within the «Choose» campaign with understanding. A. Shcherbik, the head of culture department of Navapolatsk City Executive Committee, opened the festival. On June 30 the results of the bands 'competition were summed up, the following day those who were chosen for the festival appeared before the footlights.

On July 3, during the official celebration of Lukashenka's Day of the Republic, members of the Vitebsk «Young Front» branch went out into Freedom Square to invite people to come to the Presidential election that will take place in autumn. They wore orange T-shirts with the campaign symbols. Two policemen came up to them and searched the bag with T-shirts featuring the picture of sun. The incident seemed to be over, the police went away. But in an hour the square was full with policemen. Policemen in plain clothes came up to the youngsters, ordered three of them to show their documents and copied their passport data. After this they started asking what the «Young Front» members were doing in the square… Then they went away and continued to watch the teenagers from a distance.

On July 3, at the celebration of the Day of Republic in the center of Vitebsk members of the «Young Front» showed a performance. They put a pile of dung under a big baffle with the picture of the current State flag and emblem (looking like the Soviet ones, only without a hammer and a sickle). On the pile there was a pasteboard poster with the inscription: «We Don't Want to Live in Bullshit!» It was made in the afternoon, in presence of the celebration participants. The authorities reacted only in an hour. They sent a special car to wash the dung off the asphalt and the baffle. However at night somebody made the inscription «Flag of grief» on the baffle. In the morning the inscription was erased.

On July 5 in the town of Rechytsa representatives of the youth movement «Zubr», UCP Youth and «Young Front» carried out a regular action. Energetic youngsters in T-shirts with the slogan «Time to Choose» distributed special numbers of «Nasha Svaboda» at the town square, where there gathered about 10 000 citizens. They managed to distributed 3 000 newspapers without being detained, though there were many policemen.

On July 6 Barysaw City Court considered the case against the activist of the «Zubr» movement Zmitser Fiadorchanka, initiated for participation in an unauthorized picket on June 1. The picket was devoted to the international day of child protection. Judge Alaksei Bolataw fined the accused 150 minimal wages (app. $750). As it became known from Fiadorchanka's answers to the judge's questions, the local medical authorities were showing criminal negligence towards children's health. According to the latest data, there were about 250 children ill with hepatitis B and C in Barysaw. That's why Zmitser Fiadorchanka was standing at the entrance of Barysaw City Executive Committee, holding the appropriate posters. The public defender Larysa Hrebneva asked the judge to acquit the accused. Later, at night, unknown people smashed the window of the flat where two other pickets, Alesia Yasiuk and her 16-year-old daughter Tatsiana Yasiuk (recently beaten by RNU fascists) were living. Alesia Yasiuk has already applied to Barysaw City Department of Internal Affairs concerning the assault on the flat.

On July 6 15 young people, members of the youth movement «Zubr» appeared at the Zhlobin railway station, central market and in the streets, wearing T-shirts with the inscriptions «Let's Say NO to Fool!». They handed out about 3 000 of special numbers of «Nasha Svaboda» to passer-by and posted stickers. The police detained one of youngsters, but found no violations and had to release him.

At night between July 9 and 10 in many towns of Brest region there appeared inscriptions «Time to Choose!». In Vysokaye these inscriptions were made on the walls of the local state bodies, the railway station, opposite the police station. On the official stand in the center somebody wrote «Stop Luka!» Some inscriptions told people about the inadequate state of mental health of the incumbent Belarusian president. The similar inscriptions saw inhabitants of Biaroza and Ivatsevichy.

On July 19 members of the unregistered «Zubr» movement carried out an action of protest during the visit of the Chinese leader Jiang Zemin. When Zemin's car was going along Francysk Skaryna Avenue, ten youngsters went out on the Avenue, holding the posters «Free Tibet» and wearing on their head white belts with the same inscription. They also held portraits of the Tibetan religious leader Dalai Lama in their hands. Eight of these ten were detained and taken to Minsk Central DBIA for composition of reports. The under aged were directed to juvenile delinquency committees. The adults received call-ups to Minsk Central District Court.

On July 20 in Babruisk the local organizations of «Young Front» and Young Social Democrats carried out an action in the central square of the city where youth usually gathers and in the adjoining streets. They were giving people flowers to which the

«Choose» stickers and paper ribbons with the inscription «There is an election on September 9. Come to the polling station and bring your relatives there. Think with your head!» were attached. The action participants managed to hand out about 1 000 carnations. Policemen of police station No. 8 where opposition-minded people are usually brought received flowers as well.

On July 23 in Vitebsk there was issued the first number of the bulletin «Choose». Center of Youth Initiatives «Contour» issued it within «Choose» campaign. On the first page of the bulletin there’s the campaign logo, the article «Mobilization Goes On» where the sense f «Choose’ campaign is explained and also an interview with Iosif Navumchyk, Chairman of regional Coordination Council of public organizations on monitoring of elections. The second page contains interview with well-known Belarusian citizens concerning the upcoming election. NGOs’ members distribute the bulletins at mobilization actions in Vitebsk and Vitebsk region.

On July 25 in Vitebsk the police detained 10 members of the «Young Front» for no reason: vice-Head of Vitebsk BPF branch Yury Korban, Kanstantsin Smolikaw, Viktar Shlakhtsin, Andrei Kaporykaw, Tatsiana Chabatarova, Nastasia Karpovich, Maryna Kanapelka, Aleh Korban, Ivan Tamashevich and Barys Haretski. On July 25 Presidents of the Ukraine, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus were present at the closure of the «Slavonic Bazaar» festival. There were different formal reasons for detentions. Five of the detainees were told that they were detained in connection with the violent murder of a woman at night on July 22, in order to find out where they had been at that time. The police detained the other four only for wearing T-shirts «Young Front». They also detained Kanstantsin Smolikaw for no formal reason. It was major police sergeant Kukian who directed the whole operation. But in the DBIA the policemen didn’t mention any crimes. Instead, they interrogated the detained for 3 hours and a half concerning the graffiti on the walls of Vitebsk buildings.

On August 2 at 5.30 p.m. in Brest the armed policemen of Leninski DBIA detained 3 young people: Siarzhuk Bakhun, Ales Khomich and Andrus Ushakow, who had been distributing a bulletin of “Young Front”. The detainees were taken to Leninski DBIA and a report was drawn up by the terms of Article 167.1 of the Code of Administrative Offences (Violating the order of organizing and conducting meetings, rallies, street marches and pickets). It was the incumbent head of Leninski DBIA Police Lieutenant Colonel Kregel, who ordered the policemen to draw up the report by the terms of that article. Bakhun and Khomich were denied their right to get legal counseling and they refused to sign the reports without a lawyer present. In 3 hours all the young people were released.

On August 7 in Barysaw the police detained Alesia Yasiuk, an activist of unregistered youth movement Zubr. Alesia Yasiuk was detained in the building of Barysaw city administration, after all the office doors had been covered with the stickers "Time to Clean Up!". The police took Alesia Yasiuk to a police station and drew up charge sheets under article 172 (Illegal Distribution of Printed Material).

On August 13 in Svetlahorsk the young people staged a “musical” picket, where they played the guitar, sang songs and called the people to come to the polling stations on September 9. Twelve people were detained and had to spend the night at the police station. On August 14 the police took them to court but the young people demanded a lawyer and the trial was postponed. The following people had been detained:

1. Ales Torap
2. Eduard Saranchuk
3. Siarhei Hardziyevich
4. Alaksei Zhuro
5. Yulia Shkurko (under age)
6. Ruslan Lutarevich (under age)
7. Kiryl Ksiandzow (under age)
8. Maya Bobryk
9. Alexander Ivanow
10. Andrei Ihnatsenka
11. Siarhei Saroka
12. Alexander Siamashka

On August 16 the young people who had been detained in Svetlahorsk on August 13 during the "musical picket", had been tried. The witnesses were the policemen who had detained the picketers. Judge Iryna Aliseika ruled the following:

1. Ales Torap (20 minimal wages)
2. Eduard Saranchuk (20 minimal wages)
3. Alaksei Zhuro (warned)

4. Alexander Ivanow (20 minimal wages)

5. Andrei Ihnatsenka (20 minimal wages)

6. Siarhei Saroka (20 minimal wages)

7. Alexander Siamashka (warned)

The court ordered the re-investigation of the Siarhei Hardziyevich case. The cases of Yulia Shkurko, Ruslan Lutarevich, and Kiryl Ksiandzow (all of them are under age) were submitted to the local juvenile committee.

On August 25 in Rechytsa the police detained Natalla Brel – the girl managed to take a picture of Mikhail Papow, the secretary of Rechytsa committee of the pro-presidential Belarusian Patriotic Youth Union, who was reaching for the condom with anti-presidential slogans. On August 25 the local committee of the BPYU organized a graffiti festival and a rock concert. The local members of "Young Front" and UCP youth couldn't miss the event. They started to distribute condoms with a picture of the face with moustache and a slogan "Pull it/him on 9.09.2001". The condoms enjoyed great popularity – even the first secretary of Rechytsa BPYU got interested. Natalla Brel, a member of UCP, managed to take a picture of Mikhail Papow when he reached out for such a condom. The sight of a camera strangely affected Papow's behavior – he became anxious and started to demand the film from the camera. Probably, he got very scared – the picture will get to the newspapers – and the national leaders of BPYU will learn that in Rechytsa even the local leaders of their organization prefer condoms with anti-presidential slogans.

To cut it short, after the concert the police detained Natalla Brel and took her to the police station where they spoiled the film from the camera.

On September 1 in Navapolatsk the police detained Marharyta Tamilava, an activist of "Zubr". She walked down the central street of the city with a white-red-white flag on her shoulders. Her friend Hanna Padasionava, also a "Zubr" activist, walked with her baby in a tram. A police car with 3 uniformed people came up to them. The people neither introduced themselves, nor showed any documents. They demanded that the girls should give them the flag. Marharyta and Hanna refused. Then the policemen decided to detain them. Having spent some time trying to put a pram in the car, they decided to detain only Marharyta. Marharyta Tamilava was taken to the Navapolatsk Town Board of Internal Affairs. The policemen called for a woman who frisked Marharyta. The detention and search were not recorded. After that Marharyta was told she could be free.

On September 4 Ivan Dubik (Head of Board of Public Order Preservation and Public Security) participated in the round table "Social and legal consequences of the parallel calculation of votes and possible actions of public disobedience" in the press center of House of Press. He said that 350 graffitists were detained in Minsk during July and August. Tatsiana Raviaka, the press secretary of Public initiative "Independent Monitoring", asked him a question: 'I live in Pershamaiski District of Minsk, our house is covered with the slogans "I support our Father (Lukashenka). BPSM." Were any people detained for this graffiti?" Ivan Dubik answered:" We don't ask the detainees their membership in political organizations and parties".

On 2 October in Minsk outside the Automobile Plant 10 Young Front members were detained - they were protesting the economic expansion of Russia. The detainees were taken to the Zavodski Board of Internal Affairs. Among the detained was Pavel Seviarynets, the Young Front leader. 30 people took part in the Automobile Plant protest. The young people were holding the posters saying «MAZ (Minsk Automobile Plant) belongs to Belarus!», «Stop dismissals». Pavel Seviarynets was taken from the police to the court of the Zavodski Borough. However, the consideration of his case was postponed till 5 October. Though the picket was dispersed, the Young Front members plan to conduct soon a number of protests against the sell of Belarusian enterprises to the Russian capital. They will take place near the enterprises «Khimvalakno», Mahilow, «Azot», Hrodna, «Naftan» and «Palimir», Navapolatsk, the Metallurgical Works in Zhlobin, «Belaruskaliy», Salihorsk, MAZ and «Krynitsa», Minsk.

On 5 October the Zavodski Borough Court of Minsk started the hearing of the case of the Young Front leader Pavel Seviarynets charged with «the organizing of an illegal picket (Art. 167 Part1 of the CAO). On 2 October the Young Front staged a picket against the sell of the Minsk Automobile Plant (MAZ) to the Russian company «Sibirski alluminiy» (Siberian aluminum). The Young Front activists' action did not last more than 3-4 minutes. P. Seviarynets was detained right after the picket had begun - he had only had time to shout twice «MAZ is Belarusian!». 7 under age Young Front activists were also detained. P. Seviarynets was defended in court by the Human Rights Center «Viasna» lawyer Yury Chavusaw. Judge Mikalai Balawniow heard the testimony of the deputy head of the Zavodski Borough BIA Uladzimir Navitkevich who had been behind the detentions, and the testimony of two common policemen. P. Seviarynets did not plead guilty and demanded viewing the video footage made by the police during the picket. The video had failed to record P. Seviarynets's active participation in the picket, it only had the moment of his detention. The judge deferred passing the final ruling till 8 October. It should be

noted that P. Seviarynets's actions fall under Art. 167-1 Part 2 which provides for a fine of 150 to 300 minimal wages or an arrest of 10-15 days.

On 8 October Zavodski Borough Court of Minsk was supposed to rule the final decision on the case of Pavel Seviarynets, the chair of «Young Front». Pavel is accused of having violated Article 167-1 part 2 of the Code of Administrative Offences. Actually, the case was heard on October 5, but on October 8 judge Mikalai Balawniow came to the conclusion that the policemen had drawn up inaccurate report about the case. The judge ruled to submit the case back to Zavodski BBIA for reinvestigation. The thing is, that the report does not show, what actually Paval's violation was and does not prove why Pavel is responsible for organizing the picket. As far as it can be seen, the correct report will allow the judge to rule his decision in a few days.

On 16 October Zavodski Borough Court sentenced Pavel Seviarynets to 10 days in custody.

On October 23 in Homel in Lenin Square the police detained the members of the local "Young Front" organization Dzianis Shakalow and Yury Vasiluk and took them to Homel Central DBIA, to keep them there for three hours without drawing up any reports. It was preventive detention connected with Alexander Lukashenka's visit to Homel. Immediately after Lukashenka's departure the police released the detainees. Five members of Rechytsa "Young Front" who stood in Lenin Square doing nothing wrong, were also preventively detained. The police didn't draw up any reports and released them in three hours, like the Homel citizens.

On October 26 13 "Young Front" members, with Pavel Seviarynets being one of them, were arrested after the end of their action devoted to the 60th anniversary of the execution of underground resistance members by nazi. The "Young Front" members started their procession from Valadarski Street, going to the place of the execution with flowers and candles. While detaining the demonstrators the policemen from special police department were beating them. It's worth mentioning that members of Jewish organizations participated in the action as well, because one of the executed, Masha Bruskina, was Jew by origin. In spite of non-political nature of the commemorative action, all its participants were detained and taken to Maskowski DBIA. The police drew up reports of detention for administrative violations. It was stated that the detainees were taking part in an unauthorized procession, violating Article No. 167.1 of Code of Administrative Offences. Eight people spent 3 days in the detention center in Akrestsina street till trials.

On October 29 a number of trials over members of “Young Front” were conducted at Minsk Maskowski District Court. The youngsters were detained after during the procession, carried out in order to commemorate the members of Minsk underground resistance, executed by Nazis 60 years ago. Judge Antanovich considered four of the administrative cases and passed the following sentences:

Alona Valynets – warning;

Pavel Yalovik – the case was stopped;

Alexander Pantsialei – three days of imprisonment;

Alaksei Charniayew – three days of imprisonment.

The consideration of A. Shein’s case was postponed to November 1, the trials over U. Rubinchyk, P. Seviarynets, A. Labaty, M. Viniarski, A. Nishchyk – to November 2.

On November 1 the judge of Minsk Maskowski District Court D. Antanevich considered the administrative cases against Maxim Viniarski and Alaksei Shein, detained after the action to commemorate the nazis’ victims on October 26. He fined each of the participants of the “unauthorized procession along the pavement of Valadarski Street towards Francysk Skaryna Avenue 150 minimal wages (1 125 000 rubles, or $700). The verdict issued by M. Viniarski said that “the accused has pleaded guilty, explaining that he regrets violating the law”. M. Viniarski says that he has only confirmed his presence at the action, but doesn’t consider it to be a law violation, all the more so, that it directly concerns his family: in the beginning of the Second World War the nazis murdered one of his relatives, an organizer of Minsk underground resistance.

On November 2 the trials over the young anti-fascists, detained after the commemorative action on October 26 continued at Minsk Maskowski District Court.

The sentences passed:

Uladzimir Rubinchyk – 3 days of imprisonment;

Pavel Seviarynets – 10 days of imprisonment suspended till November 16 as Seviarynets claimed his health had deteriorated

Ales Labaty – 3 days of imprisonment;

Ales Nishchyk – fine 150 minimal wages (about $750).

On November 15 in Banhalor Square in Minsk the “Young Front” activists carried out a picket of protest against the violations of European political standards in Belarus, including violations of the liberty of word – such as the liquidation of “Pahonia” newspaper. The pickets held posters: “Free Belarus in Free Europe”, “Liberty of Speech for Belarus!”, “I Love Europe”, etc, distributed the special numbers of the newspapers “BPF news” and “Vesnik Maladoha Frontu”.

PERSECUTION, OR PROHIBITION OF ACTIVITIES OF POLITICAL PARTIES, MOVEMENTS, AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

On February 20 consideration of the case concerning the name of the Public Association "BPF "Adradzhenne" was finished. The suit was filed by Yury Belenki who identified himself as "Vice-Chairman of the Public Association "Belarusian People's Front "Adradzhenne" there. Mr. Belenki demanded to abolish the registration of the Public Association "BPF "Adradzhenne". The reason for the suit was the existence of two public associations with one name, BPF "Adradzhenne". From the very beginning the lawyers of the Front kept to one position, that there's only one Public Association "BPF "Adradzhenne". At the trial it was found out that there's only one organization that was established in 1991, and nobody except "BPF "Adradzhenne" can claim its name and history", – said Uladzimir Labkovich, the representative of the BPF law committee. According to the court ruling the plaintiff's petition wasn't granted and the case was closed.

On February 21 Vitebsk Regional Court liquidated the Orsha public association "Filon Kmita Center of Support to Democratic Changes" .Filon Kmita Center was established in 1997. The association was publicly active, issued the only registered Orsha democratic newspaper "Kutseina". The newspaper had more than a thousand subscribers. In 1999 Zamiatalin's committee ordered the Board of Justice of Vitebsk Regional Executive Committee to liquidate Filon Kmita's Center. At the trial the association Chairman Viktar Andreyew and his representative Aleh Hrablewski refuted all the charges brought by the Board of Justice. In his verdict Judge A. A. Smatrow pointed out that the only reason for liquidation of the organization could be that the Center submitted a cassation petition concerning the ruling of the Board of Justice not to re-register it more than in a month. But the decision of the Board of Justice has been found absolutely illegal in the process of the case consideration.

On February 22 night the office of the international social association "Prisoners support mission". The office is situated in the building of the research-production association "Progress". The criminals broke the doors and disassembled the computer equipment. The parts were brought through the guarded entrance with constant security in it… The Mission was registered a month ago. It deals with the improving of the prisoners living conditions and humanitarian help to the prisons… By the way not a single robbery of the public organizations that have recently been committed in Belarus has been exposed and no criminals have been found.

On July 7 workers of the Committee of Financial Investigations in Minsk and Minsk region checked whether the BSA complied with the taxation laws. As a result of the check-up four computers were seized (for check-up of the information). As the committee workers couldn't get in two of the office rooms (BSA members had no keys to them), these rooms were sealed. The check-up started at 11.30 a.m. and ended at 4 p.m. During that time Chairman of Minsk Savetski District KGB Board, Head of Minsk Savetski DBIA, Head of Housing-operation Service, Chairman of PA HRC «Viasna» and «Viasna» observers visited the BSA office. During the check-up there no violations were found. According to the regulation on check-ups, checking of the computers can last for 10 days, or even one month, depending on the decision of the verification body.

At 9 a.m. on July 18 BSA Chairman Krystsina Sidun and observer of PC HRC «Viasna» Andrei Kazakevich appeared at Minsk (Region) Department of State Committee on Financial Investigations. There they had a meeting with a department worker, Head of the checking group that acted at BSA office on July 7. Then they went to the legal address of BSA. The sealed office rooms were opened in presence of Krystsina Sidun and Andrei Kazakevich. The act of the room examination was composed. The knight equipment (including a long and sharp sword) that was found in the room was attached. However, this time there were no equipment attachments. On August 2 approximately at 3 p.m. 2 policemen tried to enter the office of UCP youth in Zaslawskaya Street in Minsk. They kicked the doors, intimidating those inside. The official reason for the visit was a commonplace passport check procedure. But the UCP members didn't open the door. In the evening a special police group searched the office and seized all the equipment. The policemen have detained a few activists of the youth coalition "Time for Changes!"

On August 16, at 4 p.m. On August 8, at 4 p.m. the police of Chyhunachny DBIA of Homel city tried to burst in the private house of Viktar Karniyenka, a chairperson of the regional non-governmental organization "Civic Initiative", who was in Minsk on that day. The doors were locked. The policemen detained everybody going in or out of the house. They detained Uladzimir Katsora, deputy chair of "Civic Initiative" and lawyer Leanid Sudalenka. At the same very day, the police attacked the office of the unregistered youth center "Hart". Seeing that the doors would be not opened, the police cut the office from electricity and started detaining everybody who was going out. Thus, the police detained 3 members of Homel youth organization "Zubr".

On October 3 the Belarusian Justice Ministry issued a second warning to the BPF party for using the letterhead of the BPF Adradzhenne movement. The party considers the warning illegal and is planning to appeal the warning in court. It also intends to sue

the authorities for the tenfold increase of the office rent. By the way, the changed rental was backdated.

On October 18 chair of Belarusian Students Association Board Krystsina Sidun was invited to the Ministry of Justice. Head of Board of Public Associations M. Sukhinin, Minister of Justice V. Halavanaw and worker of Board of Public Assemblies A. Kharyton participated in the meeting. They informed BSA Chairman that the procedure of BSA liquidation through court was at the stage of preparation. On September 9, 2001 BSA Board received a warning as “the name of the organization at the post box and at the office entrance differs from the name, registered at the Ministry of Justice”.

On October 22 investigator Uladzimir Vychakaw made a decision to drop charges against Homel NGOs "Civic Initiatives" and "Hart". The decision also obliges KGB to return the confiscated equipment to "its legal owners". However, KGB refuses to return the equipment, referring to the request of the tax committee to "delay the return of 9 computers, 3 printers, 2 scanners and 1 Xerox". The leaders of the NGOs think that KGB grounds on their participation in election observation.

On November 27 and 29, and December 3 the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus started a hearing of an action of the Ministry of Justice against Belarusian Students’ Association. The Ministry of Justice attempts to close BSA, the only national student organization in Belarus, and one of the founders of the Assembly of Democratic NGOs. It was students who demonstrated their absolute distrust to Lukashenka during the last election, which he repeatedly declared during his TV speeches. This became one of the real reasons to close down BSA. Belarusian Students Association is an organization, which is officially registered since 1992, which has structures in 40 educational establishments, which publishes a magazine and numerous local student newspapers. It is an organization, which openly opposes the obligatory employment of students after graduation, inhuman conditions of student dormitories, ungrounded fees for obsolete knowledge and oppression on any level. It is an organization, which conducts mass actions on the streets and in universities, which works with deans and students, university libraries and canteens, which is a full and active member of ESIB (National Unions of Students in Europe). There is no way they could leave BSA at peace! What could the regime do? Liquidate quickly and quietly. But it didn't happen this way. On November 16-18, during the European Student Convention in Brussels, the student representatives from all over Europe demonstrated their support to Belarusian Students Association. About 30 student organizations of Europe protested against the arbitrary and undemocratic way the Belarusian government is suppressing civil society and young

people in particular and guaranteed that no matter what the outcome of the court case was they would continue partnership relations with BSA. The National Student Unions promised to inform the official bodies, press and people in their countries about the situation with BSA and general human rights in Belarus. Besides that, several dozen of international organizations addressed their letters of protest against closing down BSA to the Ministry of Justice. A number of Belarusian NGOs and private persons also sent in their inquiries, asking to explain the reasons for closing BSA down. Human Rights Center "Viasna" also appealed to the international community, asking to support BSA in their fight. A. P. Kharyton, the leading expert of the Ministry of Justice, stated that Belarusian Students Association hinders the work of the Ministry of Justice and distributes published materials with political contents. Examples? The wrong color of the symbol on the organization form, 2 organization members did not know where the documents of 1999 were… A crime! At the same time the court determined that the Ministry of Justice had sent same, but differently dated, documents to the court and to BSA; that the national emblem on the form of the Ministry of Justice does not coincide with the emblem, sanctioned by Lukashenka; there are 2 different addresses on 2 sides of the form; and there is a signature of the Minister’s deputy beside the printed name of the Minister on the form. The Ministry of Justice is a state body, which has trained and paid employees, who are supposed to control that the documents are issued according to the legislation. But, as it turned out, such things are not of principle in the case of the Ministry of Justice. It is students who are supposed to have ideal documentation and to make some changes behindhand because the authorities again issued new legal acts and requirements. The officials consider a sticker with dancing and running manikins with ballot papers in their hands to be political literature. “The stickers were all around the city”, – said Kharyton.

BSA lawyers Siarhei and Zmitser Zikratski were fighting against the accusations, which are absurd even according to the Belarusian legislation. However, on December 3 Judge Mikalai Babkow satisfied the suit of the Ministry of Justice and ruled to close down BSA. The ground – for alleged violation of Belarusian legislation. Besides that, the BSA members are accused in "political activities": participation in election campaign, and publishing a series of leaflets, which called the young people to come to the polls…

On December 20 State Tax Committee of Chyhunachny district in Homel had finished an audit in the "Civic Initiatives". The Committee has drawn up a statement (dated 27/11/2001) about imposing a fine of 6 million Belarusian roubles upon "Civic Initiatives". The case is submitted to court. According to the statement, of the State Tax Committee, Homel NGO is accused in spending the foreign grant on the wrong purpose. According to the Committee, this is violation of the infamous Decree #8.

Let us remind you, that in the beginning of August, in the middle of the election campaign, the police conducted a search in the office of the "Civic Initiatives" and confiscated all the office equipment of the NGO. The search and the confiscation were conducted under a criminal case, started by Homel KGB Board. The criminal case was started on the fact of "anti-presidential" slogans, which appeared on the walls of the town. Late the criminal charges were dropped. But KGB continued its attacks on the "Civic Initiatives". Homel KGB Board refused to return the confiscated office equipment and filed a request to the State Tax Committee, demanding to conduct a financial audit of the NGO's activities. The first audit started on August 8 and was finished on September 21. Then the audit was prolonged, but the NGO was not informed about the results of the audit. On November 5 the Tax Committee started a new audit, which ended on November 27, with a statement that the "Civic Initiatives" had violated the provisions of the Decree #8. At present the audit results and the statement are submitted to court. If the court confirms the fact of violation of the Decree #8, the activities of the "Civic Initiatives" will be jeopardized.

On December 27 Homel city court stated that chairperson of the youth center "Hart" Siarhei Adzinets violated Decree # 8, which prohibits to use office equipment, received as foreign grant, for political purposes. According to the court decision, the chair of "Hart" has to pay a fine of 1 million roubles (about $640). "Hart" intends to complain against the city court decision to Homel region court.

In December judge of the Supreme Court Hanna Sakalowskaya satisfied the request of the Ministry of Justice and announced the decision to close down Youth Information Center. During 2001 the Ministry of Justice made 3 warnings to the NGO. The first warning was made for violation of regulations for foreign citizens on the territory of Belarus (Michal Plavec, Czech journalist, who was deported in 2001, had come to Belarus on YIC invitation). The second warning was issued for the fact that the address of the office was not the same as the legal address of the NGO. The third warning – for mistakes in the organization's letter form. After that the Ministry of justice initiated a case of closing YIC down. Ales Mikhalevich, chair of Youth Information Center, is sure, that it was closed down on the order from the top officials of Belarus. However, in spite of the Court's verdict, Youth Information Center will continue it main activity: to help democratic youth NGOs in the regions of Belarus.

PERSECUTION OF TRADE UNIONS, WORKERS' MOVEMENT AND BUSINESSMEN

From 1 till 5 January Belarusian tradesmen and small businessmen had a strike. More than 150,000 took part (around 90 pro cent of all the entrepreneurs working in the country). The demands were the same: the abolishment of the State Customs Committee resolution “On Customs Clearing of Merchandise” as regards tradesmen and retail dealers; amendments of the Presidential decree concerning the confiscation of businessmen’s merchandise. The authorities did not pay attention to the strike, so the strike committee said that it was planning a new (now indefinite) strike of the businessmen.

On January 21 Alexander Stalarow, Chair of the Independent Trade union of businessmen of Orsha and Orsha District, was detained. Two policemen detained him while he was distributing the informational bulletin “Changes!”. Stalarow was taken to the Town Department of Internal Affairs, interrogated for 45 minutes and then released. A. Stalarow thinks that the authorities are trying to pressurize the businessmen who were on strike for two weeks at the beginning of 2001.

On February 14 Belarusian Trade Unions Federation organized a demonstration at Banhalor Square under the slogan ”Bring salaries to the prices level!” About 5000 took part

On February 28 the Minsk markets were empty again – businessmen conducted the recurrent “warning strike”… If it wouldn’t have any consequence and the authorities wouldn’t satisfy the demands of the businessmen the following actions are going to be harder

On April 28, a spontaneous strike broke out at the Minsk-based knitwear plant. About four hundred people left their work stations and blocked traffic on Mayakowski Street, demanding that the administration repay all wage arrears. the portrait of Lenin watched the meeting coldly as silent advice what to do when “the ones at the top can not and the ones at the bottom don’t want to” live the same way any more.

Chairman of the Independent Trade Union of “Belshyna” factory Alena Zakhozhaya was on hunger strike from May 2 to May 17 in order to make the factory administration give her organization the document confirming that it does have a legal address. Though the trade union has existed for 8 years already, Babruisk City Executive Committee constantly refused to register it because of absence of the legal address. Another claim of the striker was to give the trade union member Aleinikaw a credit to buy a flat. The

administration satisfied the second demand immediately, although they refused to do it before. On May 11 about 100 people gathered near the factory checkpoint, conducting an unauthorized rally in support of A. Zakhozhaya. Among the action participants there were: Head of "Workers' Self-support" organization Siarhei Antonchyk, vice-president of Belarusian Independent Trade union Mikalai Zimin, activists of democratic trade unions from different regions of the country. Workshop masters, who were sent by the factory administration, tried to break the rally. They watched that there were no workers from their shops and also tried to disrupt the action with such questions as: "Who gives you money for your journeys?» "Who called you here?» Not far from them there was ex-city - major Uladzimir Ramanowski. When one of the action participants asked him to come out and talk to the workers, he just said, smiling: "If she wants to starve, I don't care!" At the end of the action there appeared Alena Zakhozhaya and thanked everybody who supported her. Later she didn't manage to return to the room of the Independent Trade union, because somebody has changed the lock. The door was guarded by the factory security service. A. Zakhozhaya applied to the factory director concerning the fact of the usurpation of the room. Everyday A. Zakhozhaya went to work. One day twelve people from the security department with a brigade of medics came to her and proposed to inject her vitamins. When she refused, they composed an act about the refusal in order to escape responsibility. Since May 14 she slept on her working place, being unable to get home on her own. The factory direction pretended that nothing strange was going on, motivating it by the fact that the application about the hunger strike wasn't submitted in the legal 15 days' term. The factory newspaper "Belaruski Shynnik", for instance, didn't write a word about the hunger strike. On May 16 Zakhozhaya was again visited by another "delegation": the representative of Babruisk City Executive Committee V. Harbaniow, M. Zimin, factory director Kratovich and the factory's vice-director on information and social development Natalla Vasileva. They proposed the peaceful solution. They promised to solve the issue of legal address till Saturday. Alena Zakhozhaya wrote a declaration, where she stated that she stopped the hunger strike. Then she was taken to the factory hospital, where she will be recovering under the supervision of medics. In spite of her age (she is 49), 3rd-rate disability and 15 days' hunger strike, she speaks about her state of health as satisfactory.

On September 19 four Babruisk dwellers, who had gone on a hunger strike in August 2001, received call-ups to court for September 28. The reason for the summons was their long hunger strike during which the women tried to exercise their right to accommodation and employment. Yanina Awsianik and Eva Ustsimchyk demanded the administration of the Babruisk branch of Minsk Tractor Factory provide them with

accommodation. Chief accountants of this enterprise Lubow Sankevich and Eva Ustsimchyk also protested against their dismissals. Halina Huseva went on a hunger strike as she thought that the authorities illegally deprived her large family of accommodation. The police called their actions as unauthorized picket and sent the case to court.

At about 11.00 a.m. on September 28 about 800 workers of Minsk Tractor Factory went out into Dawhabrodskaya street in Minsk. They explained their actions by the fact that the factory authorities should have paid them their salaries on September 13, but instead promised to pay tomorrow for two weeks. The last date appointed by the administration was the morning of September 28. When the workers came to know that they wouldn't receive their salaries on that day, they went on strike. In some time Leanid Krupets, deputy executive of the factory, went out to the workers. He said that the money had been already delivered and the salaries arrears would be paid off at the branches of "Belarusbank" in the second half of the day. Mikalai Yarokhaw, Vice-Head of the Minsk City Executive Committee, has come to Dawhabrodskaya Street as well. He said that all Belarusian authorities including President and Premier had been informed about the conflict at Minsk Tractor Factory and asked the workers to go home, but all in vain. The protest ended only at 1 p.m. when some workers went to the branches of "Belarusbank" and informed others that the salaries were really paid off there…

At 10 a.m. on November 9 not far from the metro station Kastrychnitskaya in Minsk a picket of representatives of Belarusian Congress of Democratic Trade Unions was to have taken place. They haven't received any answer from Minsk City Executive Committee towards their request to allow them picketing there. The picket lasted for about 20 minutes. Then the police have detained 7 people, among whom were Viktar Babayed, Uladzimir Makarchuk, Alena Kalinina, Famin, etc., took them to the nearest police station in Marx street. Then the detained would most probably be taken to court.

On November 9 the trials over three participants of the unauthorized picket, organized by Belarusian Congress of Democratic Trade Unions, took place. All three defendants were fined:

Uladzimir Makarchuk – 200 minimal wages;

Viktar Babayed – 20 minimal wages;

Famin – 20 minimal wages.

On November 12 Minsk City Department of Internal Affairs, Leninski District, considered the administrative case against Alena Kalinina, participants of the unauthorized picket of Belarusian Congress of Democratic Trade Unions on November 9,

not far from Kastrychnitskaya metro station. Alena Kalinina was only warned, while other picket participants were fined.

When Free Trade Union members of Minsk Tractor Factory walked in their office in the morning of November 27, everything in the room was turned upside down. Viktar Ivashkevich, chairperson and editor-in-chief of newspaper “Rabochy” (Worker) thinks that “this is a continued effort of the authorities to shut down free trade unions. The regime has 2 kinds of tactics towards trade unions. If we are talking about the official Federation of Belarusian Trade Unions, the policy is to interfere with their internal business and to help the “right” people to become the Federation officials. The regime has a different policy towards Free Trade Unions. They do not register our local unions, liquidate them, and intend to push them beyond the bounds of legal activities. We observe this tactics since 1999. It did not end after the election”.

On December 20, four women, all residents of Babruisk, conducted an unauthorized picket near the Residence of the President. The picketers: Lubow Sankevich, Eva Ustsimchyk, Halina Huseva and Yanina Awsianik had several posters in their hands. One of the posters said: "Dear Mr. President! We earnestly ask you to receive 4 women from Babruisk". The picket lasted for only 3 (three) minutes. When the police demanded to stop the picket, the women immediately rolled up the posters and stopped the picketing. However, in spite of the fact that the women yielded to the demand the policemen detained them and took them to Leninski district police station. In the station the policemen drew up the reports of administrative offence under article 167.1 part 2 of the Code of Administrative Offences. The case was submitted to Leninski district court. Judge A. Shylko made the following verdict: L. Sankevich and E. Ustsimchyk received 10 days of jail; H. Huseva and Y. Awsianik were fined 150 minimal wages (approximately $1000) each. L. Sankevich and E. Ustsimchyk were taken to the Detention Center on Akrestsina Street. But the policemen of the Detention Center refused to take them, because L. Sankevich had a chronic stomach ulcer, and E. Ustsimchyk had a high blood pressure. The police called for an ambulance, and the women were taken to the hospital. The women came "to look for the truth from good tsar" to Minsk because the local authorities wouldn't listen to them. They all work at Babruisk factory. According to the protesters, the factory administration assigns social housing unfairly. Yanina Awsianik says: "My husband has been registered on the common waiting list for 16 years. Although we have a disabled child in the family, and that is a privilege. But they had the insolence to leave us out". Halina Huseva is a mother of a large family, she has 5 children and has invested into building an apartment with the credit money, which she received in 1991. But the construction was stopped in 1997. The family was left with no housing and no money to

live for. All the 4 women conducted the first picket in August of 2001. From 13th to 22nd of August they had a picket and a hunger strike on Lenin Square in Babruisk. Then they had been made answerable for the picket under article 167.1 part 1 of the Code of Administrative Offences. The court verdict was to reprimand them. However, their problem wasn't solved, and that instigated the women to come to Minsk, where they have been punished with extraordinary cruelty. The women, who got a fine, are under threat of confiscation of all their property to pay up a fine. The women, who received 10 days of jail, would probably serve their sentences when they get better.

On December 22 Uladzimir Gancharyk declared that he leaves the post of the chairperson of the Belarusian Federation of Trade Unions. He was appointed to the post of deputy head of Universal Confederation of Trade unions (organization, which unites the biggest trade unions of CIS countries). Uladzimir Gancharyk has held the post of the chairperson of the Belarusian Federation of Trade Unions since 1986 and was elected again on the recent plenary session. Independent analysts relate Gancharyk's resignation with the pressure on Belarusian Federation of Trade Unions after Gancharyk's participation in the presidential election as a united candidate of the opposition.

VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS TO PEACEFUL ASSEMBLIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

On February 6 Minsk authorities again did not permit the parents of children, who died in Niamiha tragedy, to organize a picket. The picket was supposed to draw the public attention to the issue of commemorating the children, lost in the tragedy. The organizers planned to conduct a picket in 200 meters from metro station "Niamiha". During the previous picket, which took place on November 4, 2000, the parents gathered over 2 thousand signatures in support of the idea of creating a chapel on the place, where 53 people had died on May 30, 1999.

On February 22 Zmitser Salawyow, the representative of the Navapolatsk Branch of the HRC “Viasna” filed a suit against the Navapolatsk Executive Committee to the Navapolatsk City Court. The Navapolatsk City Executive Committee didn’t allow a meeting on February 14 in order to celebrate St. Valentine’s Day. Zmitser Salawyow says: “the Navapolatsk City Executive Committee has violated the civic right to assembly. The prohibition was made for no reasons. The committee’s response said: “The celebration of St. Valentine’s Day can’t be carried out in the form of a meeting”. They also wrote that we hadn’t described here our measures concerning the provision of public order and tranquility. But it’s the duty of the police to provide them”.

On March 20 Pinsk authorities did not permit Viktar Yarashuk and Siarhei Kastsiukovich to organize a rally "For decent life – against poverty and lawlessness". Head of Pinsk administration Vasil Shust gave the following grounds for refusal in his letter: "Pinsk city administration refuses to permit the rally, because we doubt that 2 persons are able take the responsibility for organizing and conducting of such mass and serious event. Further on we will consider only applications, submitted by political parties and NGOs". Viktar Yarashuk and Siarhei Kastsiukovich think that such wording does not conform to the law "about meetings, rallies, street marches, and pickets".

On March 20 a group of citizens, who had applied to Minsk administration for permission to organize a march, a rally and a concert in Minsk (on March 25, Freedom Day) filed a complaint to court against the actions of Minsk administration, which changed the conditions for conducting the events. The applicants planned to gather the participants on Yubileinaya Square, to march through Ramanawskaya Slabada and Haradzki Val Streets and to conduct a rally and a concert on Svabody (Freedom) Square. Minsk authorities permitted only a rally and proposed to conduct it on Banhalor Square (in the outskirts of the city). The applicants think that their rights, guaranteed by

Constitution and other laws, have been seriously violated. They demand to cancel the decision of Minsk administration, which do not keep in line with the Belarusian legislation.

On March 29 Biaroza administration (Brest region) did not permit Siarzhuk Rusetski, a representative of the Human Rights Center "Viasna", to organize a picket "In support of A.G. Lukashenka" on April 1. The decision was motivated the following way: "The aim of the picket, written in the application, is not true; the chosen form of the event does not conform to the aim".

On August 24 the head of Babruisk police personally disseminated the picket in support of presidential candidate Uladzimir Gancharyk. The incident took place near the dormitories of Belshyna factory. Ivan Zablotski, the head of Babruisk City Board of Internal Affairs was personally telling the picket participants to go away, threatening them with possible arrests. He explained the reasons for his actions: nobody of the picket participants is an official member of Gancharyk's initiative group. Ihar Khodzka, chair of Babruisk branch of the HRC "Viasna", such actions of the police are connected with the visit of Lukashenka to Babruisk, "who might ride along the street and see the picket".

14. DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF LANGUAGE, RELIGION, AND ETHNIC ORIGIN

On January 10 one of the best Belarusian Poets Ales Razanaw left for Germany. Ales Razanaw went to Germany on the invitation of International Writer’s Parliament. Just before leaving Ales Razanaw gave an interview to Siarhei Shapran, the reporter of “Belaruskaya Delovaya Gazeta”. A. Razanaw said that poets leave “for good”, “when a writer is left with no means of subsistence. When the book he has written is lying on the shelve of the publishing house for years and when, finally, it appears, the scanty author emoluments are a reproach to his creative activity”. He also said: “Lukashenka is already not a winner, but still not a looser. During the time of his rule he humiliated Belarus, our Independence depends on his unbalanced impulses… People are too tired, they have been experiencing too many disappointments, too many of their expectations have been dashed”. ”. It’s worth reminding that several prominent Belarusian litterateurs already live abroad. They are Vasil Bykaw (Germany), Uladzimir Niaklayew (Finland), and Sviatlana Aleksiyevich (Italy).

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"What is the matter?". Belarusian language aroused suspicions of the policeman and he detained Andrei, letting him to call home.

On April 19 Valery Shchukin, member of the Supreme Soviet of the 13th convocation and human rights activist, appealed to Minsk prosecutor, requesting to initiate a criminal case against Yawhen Novikaw for exasperating racial, national and religious enmity. Yawhen Novikaw is a leader of a program on Belarusian Television. Shchukin states, that "On April 16 in his program, Novikaw insulted the people of religious minorities, called their churches "sects" and disseminated the ideology of Orthodox church as the only right and possible one for the people of Belarus. He made it clear to TV viewers that propaganda of the Orthodox church and persecution of believers of other churches was the official policy of the authorities and the head of the state".

On May 16 Prosecutor General Sheiman replied to Belarusian Language Society and stated that they do not see corpus delicti in the programs of Belarusian Television "Secret Springs of Politics", as BLS repeatedly declared. The members of BLS repeatedly submitted letters to Sheiman, stating that almost in every program of "Secret Springs of Politics" the authors insult Belarusian language and its speakers, to say nothing of non-orthodox religions, which exist in Belarus. In their last letter BLS mentioned one of the March programs, which called Belarusian speaking and publicly active citizens "local aboriginals". However, the prosecutor refused to initiate a criminal case for exasperating racial, national and religious enmity.

On July 5 and 6 The 3rd Congress of Belarusians of the World took place. As it had happened before, president Lukashenka treated the national forum as a bad stepfather – his stepson. The authorities, knowing, that the majority of Diasporas abroad stand for independent and democratic Belarus, did everything possible to spoil the Congress. Deputy chair of State Committee on the issues of religions and ethnic groups Yanovich published an article in a state-sponsored newspaper for Belarusians abroad "Holas Radzimy" (the Voice of the Motherland). In his article he sharply criticized the Association of the Belarusians of the World "Batskawshchyna", accusing the organization in being "strict opposition", and recommended the Belarusians abroad not to come to the Congress, which "will turn into a political action of dishonest Belarusians in opposition". Belarusian Embassies abroad treated the delegates the same way. This way, the authorities again violated not just rights of a person, but the rights of 8 million Belarusians of the country and 3 million Belarusians abroad.

On August 14, at 11 p.m. young fascists attacked the camp of Belarusian youth activists on Matsiarynskaye lake (Pukhavichy district of Minsk region). They burned

white-red-white flag, yelling "Glory to Russia!" The fascists also started to burn the private belongings of camp participants and heavily beat 3 people. The policemen, who came to the place of the incident, just said to the young people: "Well, what have you been doing here with your camp? Go away!" Soon after the police had driven away, the neo-nazis attacked the camp again.

35 guys and girls (most of them in the age of 16-20) from Pukhavichy district participated in the camp. It was attacked by approximately 30 neo-nazis, 3 of them are from village Druzhny of Pukhavichy district.

On September 17 a picket against the closure of the local lyceum, the only Belarusian-language educational establishment in the city was carried out outside the Svetlahorsk City Executive Committee. The pupils have to hold such pickets everyday before the classes. They go into the square with such slogans as: “Don’t Let Them Close Lyceum!”, “Let’s Save The Only Belarusian-language Educational Establishment!”, “We Don’t Want to Return to Secondary School!”. The order to liquidate the lyceum was issued on September 11. According to it all Lyceum pupils are to be transferred to Svetlahorsk secondary school No. 1, one of the lyceum building is passed to the House of children’s and technical creative work. The order calls this “reorganization of the educational establishment”. But according to the unofficial version the reason for the liquidation of the lyceum is their meeting with the writer Uladzimir Arlow on September 7, whose writings the authorities don’t like much.

On September 26 an unauthorized protest against the demolition of the former synagogue building in Dzimitraw Street was held in Independence Square outside the Minsk City Executive Committee. Yakaw Gutman, President of World Association of Belarusian Jews and Wolf Rubinchyk, postgraduate of Republican Institute of the higher education at Belarusian State University, participated in it. They handed out the flyers with the information about the beginning of the synagogue demolition on September 25. It’s worth mentioning that in 2000 this building was included into the register of historical and cultural valuables of the Republic of Belarus. The action lasted for 25 minutes before the police interrupted it. The demolition started on September 21, was stopped in connection with the active protest of the publicity and continued the following day. Though on September 28 the demolition was stopped again, now there’s only one wall of the old synagogue left.

On 2 October the Svetlahorsk Branch of the Yakub Kolas National State Humanitarian Lyceum (NSHL) was made part of the town secondary school #1. The town authorities refused to let the lyceum classes keep the building. It is planned to make an

agreement with the NSHL to conduct the scientific and methodological supervision and cooperation that will allow the Svetlahorsk lyceum students to take part in the NSHL actions. It is still hoped that in future the Svetlahorsk Branch will be able to resume its work in the way it has always done or a town lyceum will be created on the basis of secondary school #1.

On 2 October the Maskowski Borough Court (Judge Maxim Falko) dismissed the administrative case of Uladzimir Rubinchyk who on 25 September protested the destruction of the synagogue in Dzimitraw Street, Minsk. By the terms of Art. 21 of the CAI of the RB, the court passed an oral warning having taken into consideration the insignificance of the committed offence. At the court hearing were representatives of the Jewish community of Belarus, journalists and Nadzeya Dudarava, AMG OSCE representative. In court Uladzimir Rubinchyk was legally represented by Valantsin Stefanovich, lawyer of the HRC «Viasna», who said: «Rubinchyk's actions did not damage the legal interests of the citizens and did not cause any material damage, either. Besides, the offence in question was committed under the influence of the builders' actions that kept destroying the synagogue. This offended the religious and national feelings of Rubinchyk and caused him to become mentally disturbed. In accordance with Art. 33 of the CAI of the RB, these are the circumstances calling for leniency». Getting back to 25 September, Outside the Minsk City Executive Committee Uladzimir Rubinchyk and Yakaw Gutman held a placard to attract the Chairman's attention and stop the demolition of the synagogue (a monument of architecture, XIX century). Uladzimir Rubinchyk had already spent several months trying to hinder the demolition - he was getting in the way of the bulldozer, but all in vain… The picket lasted for around 20 minutes - Uladzimir Rubinchyk and Yakaw Gutman were detained by the police. Meanwhile, it became known that the synagogue had been completely destroyed…

On October 3 Valery Pazniakevich, a journalist who has over the past few years been in charge of the "Crimes" column in the "Chyrvonaya zmena" newspaper, contacted the public office of the PA HRC "Viasna". He said that on 2 October the police beat him for speaking Belarusian in the street… Valery Pazniakevich narrated: "I was returning home from my sister, who lives in Minsk Sukharaw suburb. In Pushkin Avenue I came up to a street store to buy cigarettes. It was closed, but there was light. So, I knocked there and asked them to sell me a pack of cigarettes and then was immediately beaten down by two policemen. They started to kick me in the head and other parts of the body. They took me to the police station in 47 Adzintsow Street, almost unconscious. I regained consciousness in the police point, but had strong headache. I demanded from them to explain the reason for my detention, then took a Dictaphone from my bag and started to

record. When they noticed it, they took me into a cell. I demanded from them to put me to an expertise (they wrote in the reports that I was drunk and fought with teenagers). They neither put me to the expertise nor allowed me to phone home. I was absolutely sober as I haven't used alcohol for several months before this incident. I was kept in the police point till 3.30 p.m. of the following day, then was taken to the court in Dunin-Martsinkevich Street. I decided to defend my rights after I heard the accusation Article – No. 156 of the Administrative Code (disorderly conduct)… I went to the expertise, alcohol was not found in my blood. I think that I've been detained for speaking Belarusian with the store sellers – they reacted aggressively to the Belarusian language.

On October 17 a number of pupils of Belarusian Humanistic Lyceum-type forms (created in the secondary school No. 1 after the re-organization of Svetlahorsk branch of Yakub Kolas National State Humanistic Lyceum) were summoned to police points. None of the picket participants received call-ups, which is a violation of administrative legislation by the inspector. The pupils were summoned to the police either by telephone calls or by the policemen, who passed the summons orally. When one of the under-aged phoned to the inspection and asked what was the reason for his summons, they answered they would explain it after he came. The teachers weren't informed about these summonses either. All in all, on September 17 the police summoned 8 pupils (Siarhei Herasimaw, Halina Kuzmina, Sophia Zobava, Yanina Varonik, Iryna Daineka, Volha Kruk, Uladzislaw Maslukow, and Natalla Shafarenka). At present the inspector of the juvenile committee at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, police captain Ziaziotka interrogates the pupils concerning the participation in the unauthorized pickets, their organization, etc. The police workers try to convince the pupils that their picketing was a serious violation of the public order. (Here it's worth mentioning that about 90% of the pupils are girls, 15-17 years old). The policemen make written explanations on the base of the pupils' witnesses. Everything is done on the order of Svetlahorsk TEC.

On November 9 the teachers who are members of the association of Svetlahorsk Belarusian Lyceum-type forms weren't given their salaries for October. We should mention that in September 2001 Head of Education Department of Svetlahorsk Town Executive Committee H.V. Filipovich issued an order concerning the liquidation of the Svetlahorsk branch of Yakub Kolas NSHL – the first educational establishment n the town, established in 1993. The formal reason was that as a result of certain changes in the Republican normative documentation Minsk NSHL couldn't have any branches in any other towns and cities any longer. The order was issued after the meeting of the Lyceum pupils with the well-known Belarusian writer and history researcher Uladzimir Arlow on September 7, on the eve of the Presidential election. During three weeks the teachers

and the pupils defended the right to preserve their collective. For the entire period the lyceum staff worked free of charge. Before and after classes pupils often carried out unauthorized pickets outside the Education Department of Svetlahorsk Town Executive Committee (TEC) and in Central Square. As a result of the struggle with the authorities the teachers had to agree to the inclusion of the former Lyceum into a secondary schools provided a separate creative association be established– Belarusian Humanistic Lyceum-type forms with preservation of the lyceum staff, teaching plan, programs, equipment, etc. Though the Lyceum worked in September, the teachers didn't receive salaries for the second half of September.

In December Vawkavysk district (Hrodna region) Education Board made a decision, which prohibits the students, teachers and staff of the Polish School in Vawkavysk to visit Poland without previous agreement of the local authorities. Head of Education Board Mikhail Matveichyk, in his letter to school principal Ryczard Khudziaka, writes: "Vawkavysk district Education Board informs You, that any contacts with Poland, aiming at experience exchange, should be previously agreed upon with district and regional education boards, as well as with the district administration. Since December 1, 2001 any visits of students, teachers, and administration staff to Poland are prohibited without a special permission from all above-mentioned authorities".

Now the members of the Union of Poles in Belarus, which represents Polish Minority in Belarus, will have to inform the local authorities about a planned visit to Poland a month in advance, and to wait for the permission. Veslaw Kedlak, vice-chair of the Union, considers this decision as pressure on the organization, and another attempt of the authorities to hinder the activities of the Union and to violate the rights of the Polish minority. According to Kedlak, the authorities try to make obstacles for the Union not for the first time. In Vawkavysk the head of Vawkavysk administration banned the conference on the new teaching methods, which was supposed to be held in the Polish House. He motivated his actions, saying that only official authorities have the right to conduct such conferences. In Voranava, the town, where many ethnic Poles live, local officials do not give permission to create Polish speaking groups in the local school. The Polish Embassy in Belarus is already informed about the recent events in Vawkavysk. Tadeusz Krukowski, who is in Warsaw at the moment, informed the Polish public about the new facts of violation of the ethnic minority rights by the Belarusian authorities.

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the CAI of the RB, these are the circumstances calling for leniency». Getting back to 25 September, Outside the Minsk City Executive Committee Uladzimir Rubinchyk and Yakaw Gutman held a placard to attract the Chairman's attention and stop the demolition of the synagogue (a monument of architecture, XIX century). Uladzimir Rubinchyk had already spent several months trying to hinder the demolition - he was getting in the way of the bulldozer, but all in vain… The picket lasted for around 20 minutes - Uladzimir Rubinchyk and Yakaw Gutman were detained by the police. Meanwhile, it became known that the synagogue had been completely destroyed…

On October 3 Valery Pazniakevich, a journalist who has over the past few years been in charge of the "Crimes" column in the "Chyrvonaya zmena" newspaper, contacted the public office of the PA HRC "Viasna". He said that on 2 October the police beat him for speaking Belarusian in the street… Valery Pazniakevich narrated: "I was returning home from my sister, who lives in Minsk Sukharaw suburb. In Pushkin Avenue I came up to a street store to buy cigarettes. It was closed, but there was light. So, I knocked there and asked them to sell me a pack of cigarettes and then was immediately beaten down by two policemen. They started to kick me in the head and other parts of the body. They took me to the police station in 47 Adzintsow Street, almost unconscious. I regained consciousness in the police point, but had strong headache. I demanded from them to explain the reason for my detention, then took a Dictaphone from my bag and started to record. When they noticed it, they took me into a cell. I demanded from them to put me to an expertise (they wrote in the reports that I was drunk and fought with teenagers). They neither put me to the expertise nor allowed me to phone home. I was absolutely sober as I haven't used alcohol for several months before this incident. I was kept in the police point till 3.30 p.m. of the following day, then was taken to the court in Dunin-Martsinkevich Street. I decided to defend my rights after I heard the accusation Article – No. 156 of the Administrative Code (disorderly conduct)… I went to the expertise, alcohol was not found in my blood. I think that I've been detained for speaking Belarusian with the store sellers – they reacted aggressively to the Belarusian language.

On October 17 a number of pupils of Belarusian Humanistic Lyceum-type forms (created in the secondary school No. 1 after the re-organization of Svetlahorsk branch of Yakub Kolas National State Humanistic Lyceum) were summoned to police points. None of the picket participants received call-ups, which is a violation of administrative legislation by the inspector. The pupils were summoned to the police either by telephone calls or by the policemen, who passed the summons orally. When one of the under-aged phoned to the inspection and asked what was the reason for his summons, they answered they would explain it after he came. The teachers weren't informed about

these summonses either. All in all, on September 17 the police summoned 8 pupils (Siarhei Herasimaw, Halina Kuzmina, Sophia Zobava, Yanina Varonik, Iryna Daineka, Volha Kruk, Uladzislaw Maslukow, and Natalla Shafarenka). At present the inspector of the juvenile committee at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, police captain Ziaziotka interrogates the pupils concerning the participation in the unauthorized pickets, their organization, etc. The police workers try to convince the pupils that their picketing was a serious violation of the public order. (Here it's worth mentioning that about 90% of the pupils are girls, 15-17 years old). The policemen make written explanations on the base of the pupils' witnesses. Everything is done on the order of Svetlahorsk TEC.

On November 9 the teachers who are members of the association of Svetlahorsk Belarusian Lyceum-type forms weren't given their salaries for October. We should mention that in September 2001 Head of Education Department of Svetlahorsk Town Executive Committee H.V. Filipovich issued an order concerning the liquidation of the Svetlahorsk branch of Yakub Kolas NSHL – the first educational establishment n the town, established in 1993. The formal reason was that as a result of certain changes in the Republican normative documentation Minsk NSHL couldn't have any branches in any other towns and cities any longer. The order was issued after the meeting of the Lyceum pupils with the well-known Belarusian writer and history researcher Uladzimir Arlow on September 7, on the eve of the Presidential election. During three weeks the teachers and the pupils defended the right to preserve their collective. For the entire period the lyceum staff worked free of charge. Before and after classes pupils often carried out unauthorized pickets outside the Education Department of Svetlahorsk Town Executive Committee (TEC) and in Central Square. As a result of the struggle with the authorities the teachers had to agree to the inclusion of the former Lyceum into a secondary schools provided a separate creative association be established– Belarusian Humanistic Lyceum-type forms with preservation of the lyceum staff, teaching plan, programs, equipment, etc. Though the Lyceum worked in September, the teachers didn't receive salaries for the second half of September.

In December Vawkavysk district (Hrodna region) Education Board made a decision, which prohibits the students, teachers and staff of the Polish School in Vawkavysk to visit Poland without previous agreement of the local authorities. Head of Education Board Mikhail Matveichyk, in his letter to school principal Ryczard Khudziaka, writes: "Vawkavysk district Education Board informs You, that any contacts with Poland, aiming at experience exchange, should be previously agreed upon with district and regional education boards, as well as with the district administration. Since December 1, 2001 any

visits of students, teachers, and administration staff to Poland are prohibited without a special permission from all above-mentioned authorities".

Now the members of the Union of Poles in Belarus, which represents Polish Minority in Belarus, will have to inform the local authorities about a planned visit to Poland a month in advance, and to wait for the permission. Veslaw Kedlak, vice-chair of the Union, considers this decision as pressure on the organization, and another attempt of the authorities to hinder the activities of the Union and to violate the rights of the Polish minority. According to Kedlak, the authorities try to make obstacles for the Union not for the first time. In Vawkavysk the head of Vawkavysk administration banned the conference on the new teaching methods, which was supposed to be held in the Polish House. He motivated his actions, saying that only official authorities have the right to conduct such conferences. In Voranava, the town, where many ethnic Poles live, local officials do not give permission to create Polish speaking groups in the local school. The Polish Embassy in Belarus is already informed about the recent events in Vawkavysk. Tadeusz Krukowski, who is in Warsaw at the moment, informed the Polish public about the new facts of violation of the ethnic minority rights by the Belarusian authorities.

PERSECUTION OF KURAPATY DEFENDERS (MASS BURIAL PLACE OF THE VICTIMS OF STALINIST REGIME)

At night between July 21 and 22 an act of vandalism was committed in Kurapaty, where in 1930-1940s there were mass executions of the people whom the Communistic regime found guilty. Recently one more act of vandalism has been committed there. Unknown people destroyed a small monument, a gift of the USA. The monument looked like a granite slab on two concrete anchorages. On the slab there was carved the inscription in English and Belarusian: «From people of the United States of America to Belarusian people to remember».

Since September 24 members of the “Young Front” have been keeping daily duty in Kurapaty, the place where NKVD workers had executed many people in 1930s. Leaders of many other public organizations of Belarus joined them. Members of the “Young Front” and other organizations have to live in a tent there in case the assault on the graves will be committed at night. Now the road near Kurapaty is being widened, the major activities taking place at the edge of Kurapaty wood, near the Cross of Sacrifice.

October 2 - more and more people are joining the round-the-hour protest staged by the Young Front in Kurapaty. Christians of various denominations and priests took part in the vigil at the place of mass executions in 1937-1941. The place might be destroyed through the expansion of the Ring Highway. The trees featured 10-meter slogans «Kurapaty is our pain», «Victims of the Stalinist repression are buried here», and more than 50 crosses were put up. The Homel Young Front activists and the Vitebsk Young Front activist Andrus Kaporykaw, the one who had hoisted a white-red-white flag at the «Slav Bazaar» festival, put up the crosses. The Young Front said that they were prepared to start a campaign to raise funds for the reconstruction and the erection of a memorial in Kurapaty and emphasized that those who venerate memory of the repressed victims would be welcome to join the round-the-hour vigil, bring crosses, candles and flowers.

On 10 October the Young Front launched a campaign to collect signatures to close the Minsk Ring Highway near Kurapaty and build a bypass. The Young Front activists visited several houses in Mirashnichenka Street and collected more than 100 signatures under their petition. The Young Front plans to visit every house in the adjacent block where some 5000 people live. According to the petitioners, on average two thirds of the locals do not hesitate to put their signatures under the Young Front petition and are in support of the action carried out in Kurapaty. Meanwhile, several groups of unknown people dressed as civilians were seen in Kurapaty combing the forest, though not

approaching the Young Front activists' camp; the Highway was closed by the traffic police.

On 10 October it became known that the Homel Young Front activist Dzianis Chykalow will go before t became he juvenile committee for the participation in defending Kurapaty. From 1 till 9 October he and other volunteers kept guard in the camp near Kurapaty and made sure the builders did not drive their bulldozers to the site of archeological excavations. After she had learnt the reason for the student's absence, the social teacher of the school that Chykalow goes to said his actions would be considered by the juvenile delinquents committee.

On 12 October evening the police ordered the Young Front activists keeping vigil in Kurapaty to disperse. After the order was ignored, an attempt was made to remove the slogans calling for the defense of Kurapaty. Information came that the people might be dispersed, eventually they were not. At 10 p.m. some policemen noted down the personal data about those keeping vigil and threatened administrative persecution.

On October 16 Chairman of MIA Minsk Regional Board of Public Order Protection Ihar Uladyka and vice-Head of Minsk Area Board of Internal Affairs, who didn't tell his name, came to the volunteers, who were keeping 24 hour vigil in Kurapaty, the place of mass executions in the 30ies. The officials explained their visit by the fact that the regional Board of Internal Affairs had received a letter from the Republican enterprise "Beldzipradar" and Committee on Automobile Roads at the Ministry of Transport and Communications. The road-builders complained that the members of "the Young Front" interfered with the reconstruction of the Minsk Ring Automobile Road in the part that goes near the Kurapaty memorial The police authorities tried to accuse the volunteers of unauthorized picketing.

On October 28 Minsk publicity celebrated the Day of ancestors' commemoration, Dziady with the traditional procession to Kurapaty. At the place of mass executions of NKVD victims there two liturgies were served: orthodox and catholic. Thousands of citizens walked to the burial of Stalinism victims 10 kilometers from Chaluskintsy Park. This year there is a danger of destruction of Kurapaty memorial. Even on October 28 there appeared bulldozers. The workers said that they were ordered to work in spite of people's protests.

On November 8 Kurapaty became the place of repression again. The authorities ordered 200 policemen with truncheons to "tackle the problem". Those "regime servants" seized elderly people, women and children, forced them onto the ground, put

their faces in mud, kicked them… They also used tear-gas. The detainees were taken to Minsk district Board of Internal Affairs (DBIA) … At first the crosses put up by the people who wanted to stop the builders widening the road near Kurapaty, were logged off by workers and soldiers. Yaraslaw Stseshyk tried to shield a cross with his body and was the first to be detained. People in plain clothes forced him down onto the ground, kicked him and then handcuffed him, put his hood on the head so that nobody could see the detainee’s face. After this bulldozers assaulted the crosses, crashing them. A police special squad ringed that place to prevent people from defending the crosses. Uladzimir Yukho cried out “You’re fascists!” and tried to get through the ring. The policemen immediately seized him and pulled through the Kurapaty forest. People shouted. It started raining. A chain of KamAZ trucks dumped gravel on the place where the crosses were. Youngsters overlapped the road. Then mass detentions started. The policemen have injured Siarhei Lisichonak’s head. All in blood, he was taken to hospital No. 4. Alexander Atroshchankaw, Ryhor Kiyko, Viachaslaw Valadzko, Yury Fabishewski were detained. All in all, about 10 were detained. The bulldozers destroyed the tent that had housed the Kurapaty defenders. The policemen used truncheons and tear-gas. The youngster, whose name was Hleb, was poisoned with the gas and couldn’t tell his surname. He was taken to hospital. One more youngster lost consciousness after he had been battered with a truncheon. He was bleeding. Natalla Karpovich was beaten to blood as well, people had to call an ambulance for them. Natalla Radzina and coordinator of “Charter‘97” Zmitser Bandarenka were beaten as well. All of them were taken to Minsk DBIA. In their reports the policemen wrote that the detainees violated Article No. 166 and the first part of Article No. 167 of the Code of Administrative Offences (resistance to the legal requests of the police and violation of the order of holding mass actions). It was the acting Head of Minsk ABIA Abakunchyk who directed the police actions in Kurapaty on November 8.

In the morning of November 9 the authorities continued the punitive operation in Kurapaty. During the night vigil 15 new crosses were put instead of the eradicated ones. At about 10 a.m. the policemen came in chain towards the Kurapaty defenders. They detained 11 people, among them were the leader of “Young Front” Pavel Seviarynets and vice-Head of BPF Party Viachaslaw Siwchyk, and took them to Minsk DBIA. In two hours the Kurapaty defenders blocked the road not to let the bulldozers sweep the crosses away. As a result the police detained five more people. On that day Kurapaty was not the last place to witness arrests. About twenty people got from Kurapaty to the police station where the detainees had been taken with the intention to wait for the release of their friends. In an hour head of Minsk Savetski DBIA Buslo came there and ordered to detain everybody standing near the police station. 23 detainees were in the police point in 51,

Mirashnichenka Street. Among the detainees was the representative of Human Rights Center "Viasna" Andrei Yahoraw. According to the detainees' evidence, the policemen were beating Yaraslaw Stseshyk and Yury Fabishewski at the police station. The policeman nicknamed Hottab was kicking them in the heads. In their reports the policemen wrote that the detainees violated Article No. 166 (resisted to the legal requests of the police). They also searched Andrei Yahoraw. The detainees were released late in the evening, though the law allows only a three-hour detention. All in all, on November 9, 30 people were detained: Yaraslaw Stseshyk (detained and beaten for the first time on November 8), Uladzimir Yukho (detained for the first time and beaten on November 8), Uladzimir Plotnikaw, Pavel Seviarynets, Siarhei Papkow, Parfionaw, Lavon Sadowski, Mikalai Viazmin, Viktar Kaveshnikaw, Tsimafei Suhaka, Andrei Budzko, Viachaslaw Siwchyk, Fiodar Zhyvalewski, Andrei Yahoraw, Alexander Tsialehin, Henadz Drankovich, Pavel Yukhnevich, Navasenkaw, Yawhen Afnahel..

On November 9 at Minsk district Court the following detainees were tried:

Uladzimir Yukho – fined 5 minimal wages and warned;

Pavel Seviarynets – the trial was postponed to November 12;

Viachaslaw Siwchyk – the trial was postponed to November 12;

Tsimafei Suhaka – the trial was postponed to November 13;

Lavon Sadowski – the trial was postponed to November 12;

Viktar Kaveshnikaw – the police report was returned for improvement;

Fiodar Zhyvalewski – the trial was postponed to November 12;

Uladzimir Plotnikaw – the police report was returned for improvement.

On November 10 members of "Young Front" and "Zubr" came to Kurapaty again. About 100 people stood in the police ring, holding candles. Then the youngsters again put up crosses, cleaned the territory. A priest of the Belarusian Independent Church served a liturgy, with bulldozers within the hearing distance.

On November 12 the activists of the "Zubr" movement who defended Kurapaty were tried. The "Zubr" members were accused of having violated of Article No. 166 of the Administrative Code of the Republic of Belarus (disobedience to the legal police claims), though most were detained near the police station, where they were waiting for their friends. Yawhen Klimaw was fined 7 minimal wages. The other trials were postponed till

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, as the defendants solicited for presence of defenders at the trials.

November 12, Minsk District Court, trials over the Kurapaty defenders, detained on November 9. Judge Alexander Tochkar passed the following verdicts:

Pavel Seviarynets – 10 days of imprisonment;

Fiodar Zhyvalewski – 7 days of administrative imprisonment;

Lavon Sadowski – fined 20 minimal wages;

Viachaslaw Siwchyk – the trial was postponed to November 13;

Viktar Kaveshnikaw – the case materials were returned for rework.

On November 13 consideration of the administrative cases against Kurapaty defenders was going on at Minsk Maskowski District Court. There weren't any verdicts, all trials were delayed.

Viktar Tsialehin – the trial postponed to November 15;

Tsimafei Suhaka – to November 14;

Mikalai Viazmin – to November 16;

Viachaslaw Siwchyk – to November 14;

Yaraslaw Stseshyk hasn't attended the trial.

The same thing happened at Minsk Kastrychnitski District Court:

Yury Fabishewski – the trial was postponed to November 15;

Viachaslaw Valadzko – to November 16.

On November 14 at Minsk Area Court there have been considered three administrative cases against defenders of Kurapaty memorial. Judge Alexander Tochkar has made the following verdicts:

Viachaslaw Siwchyk – to close the case;

Ryhor Kiyko – to pay 20 minimal wages' fine;

Tsimafei Suhaka – to pay 20 minimal wages' fine.

On November 16, the trials over the defenders of Kurapaty burial continued at Minsk courts. The charges were brought after the events on November 8 and 9. The following sentences were made:

Mikalai Viazmin – fined 30 minimal wages;

Mikalai Valadzko – fined 5 minimal wages;

Alexander Tsialehin – fined 10 minimal wages;

Iryna Kashtalan – the case was closed because of absence of corpus delicti;

Mikita Sasim – trial postponed to November 21;

Mikalai Tkachenka and Fabishewski were tried as well.

It is worth mentioning that for several years people in many countries celebrate November 16 as an International Day of Tolerance. The day is celebrated by actions, directed at overcoming distrust and malevolence among people.

On November 18 the trial over Andrei Yahoraw in the frames of the trials over Kurapaty defenders took place. The police detained Andrei Yahoraw, an observer of the Human Rights Center "Viasna", although he was wearing an observer-badge. The badge was confiscated and attached to the case. Savetski district court ruled to fine Andrei 6 minimal wages. On the same very day there were 2 more trials over Kurapaty defenders. Alexander Hubeika, who had been detained when walking to the press conference, which was taking place in Kurapaty, received a fine of 10 minimal wages. Henadz Drankovich – a fine of 6 minimal wages.

On November 21 Savetski district court continued the trials over Kurapaty defenders. The following verdicts were made:

Mikalai Tkachenka – fined 5 minimal wages by judge Ruslan Kazadayew;

Yawhen Afnahel – fined 6 minimal wages by judge Aksana Relava;

the trial over Mr. Kazakevich was postponed to 2 p.m. on November 26 by judge Ina Sheiko;

The trial over Maxim Sasim was postponed to 2.30 p.m. on November 27 by Aksana Relava

On December 3 Kurapaty defender Raman Kazakevich was tried. Savetski district court judge fined the Young Front member 100 000 roubles (about $60).

PERSECUTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER "VIASNA" AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

On January 9 International League for Human Rights sent a letter to Alexander Lukashenka, expressing its serious concern about the continuing harassment of "Viasna". Catherine Fitzpatrick, the Executive Director of International League for Human Rights, states, that "These Justice Ministry warnings appear to be part of a pattern of harassment of this and other human rights groups in Belarus which are outspoken and uncompromising in advocating human rights protection". Catherine Fitzpatrick points out to Lukashenka, that "Belarus can never be considered part of the democratic European community until the government takes appropriate measures to assure that the crucial freedoms of speech and assembly are protected and upheld", and calls to stop the persecution of "Viasna" and other human rights organizations.

In the night of January 27 the office of “Vezha”, Center for Humanitarian Initiatives, was robbed. On Friday “Vezha” held there its seminar. The organization members think that somebody hid under the staircase after the seminar was over. It was not difficult many people had been at the seminar. When all the other people left, the robbers cracked the door from the inside. They stole 7 office computers, 3 printers, a scanner and a fax-machine. On January 27 the janitor was the first to see the broken door. The “Vezha” workers called the police. A criminal case was initiated.

On February 14 the Maskowski District Court of Minsk heard the case for defense of honor of Anatol Smalentsaw (deputy of head of the Fact-finding Committee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs). He accuses the well-known defender Vera Stramkowskaya and journalist Ales Hruzdzilovich of spreading facts compromising him. A. Smalentsaw demands public excuses and moral damage compensation of 20 million roubles. BRB (about 20000 USD). According to him, the facts humiliating him were written in the “Naviny” newspaper in April 1999. In his article “Where is Staravoitaw’s cognac?” journalist A. Hruzdzilovich related an episode of the court proceedings against Vasil Staravoitaw, the former head of “Rassvet” Ltd.. In particular about a request of Vera Stramkowskaya, the defender of Staravoitaw, to check if 40 bottles of the “Bely Aist” cognac are still kept as the proof of his guilt. The information she has says the cognac was drunk at A. Smalentsaw’s birthday party. In 1999 the investigator accused the defender of libel. The criminal case was started and lasted for 9 months. At last 40 bottles of cognac were shown in Kirawski district court. The investigator showed that suspicions were wrong but V. Stramkowskaya was found not guilty. A. Smalentsaw started a civil case in November 2000.

On March 28 night the office Belarusian Helsinki Committee was robbed. Unknown criminals broke the doors, took a printer, six system blocks, hard disk, CD-ROM, even the floppy disks. People saw them loading everything in a car and going away. The whole database was ruined as a result. The telephones in the office work badly after the robbery. The robberies of the NGOs' offices became very common thing in Belarus. These crimes usually left unexposed. We may remind that BHC office was already robbed once – on December 17 1999. That time the criminals took the computer with four years database and the publishing computer with originals of two issues of the human rights magazine.

On April 2 Minsk Central District Court sentenced Ales Bialatski, Chairman of HRC "Viasna", to 10 days of imprisonment. Ales Bialatski was detained on March 25, after the end of the action devoted to the celebration of the Freedom Day, near Maria-Magdalene Church. The night he spent in the detention center in Akrestsina Street. On March 26 Judge Pawluchuk considered Ales's case. He was accused of having violated the second part of Article 167.1 (organization of an unauthorized procession). The trial was postponed to April 2. At the trial the following police officials gave testimony: Major Valantsin Barsukow (Central DBIA), Dubanevich, Vice-Head of Central DBIA, Levanovich, Vice-Head of Savetski DBIA, Savenkow, a worker of the Department of Economic Crimes (he participated in Bialatski's detention at the action on March 25, was wearing there civil clothes). There were moments when the evidence given by different officials contradicted each other. So, Major Barsukow asserted that the procession was absolutely prohibited. A. Dubanevich said that the procession could be carried out on a certain route because there was an oral agreement between a group of people where there were police colonel Girel and Ales Bialatski. The agreement was that the police would let people go to Tankavaya Street on the pavements, and then to Banhalor Square, the place of the authorized meeting. On having listened to the testimonies the judge decided to view the video-materials. Then, on 5.20 p.m. the judge sentenced A. Bialatski to 10 days of arrest. The trial observers think that the judge made this sentence because of the video-materials. There it could be clearly seen how the defendant was leading the people, congratulated and thanked the action participants. Immediately after the verdict announcement guards from Central DBIA with Major Barsukow at the head took Ales Bialatski to the detention center.

On June 21 Minsk city court determined the amount lawyer Vera Stramkowskaya would have to pay as a compensation for the words she had said during the trial of Vasil Staravoitaw. She would have to pay 600,000 BRB (about $ 500) damages for wondering where 40 bottles of the cognac "Bely Aist", confiscated from Staravoitaw, had gone. She

was wandering because it was rumored that the investigators misappropriated it. On that ground investigator Smalentsaw filed a suit for honor protection. Judge Siarhei Nikalayew considered the case for over half a year and finally partly satisfied the claim. The newspaper "Naviny" and its journalist Aleh Hruzdzilovich, who covered the trial over Staravoitaw, were also punished. The newspaper, which doesn't exist at the present moment, is to pay 800,000 roubles to the investigator. The journalist is fined 500,000 roubles. Lawyer Vera Stramkowskaya evaluates the verdict as odd and unprecedented, for it introduces unlawful punishment of the attorneys for fulfilling their professional duty to defend a client. Harry Pahaniaila, the attorney of the journalist and a member of Belarusian Helsinki Committee, considers the decision to be "just another suppression of the freedom of speech in Belarus". Stramkowskaya and Hruzdzilovich made a statement that they would apply for a higher court to cancel the verdict.

On July 23 the advocate Vera Stramkowskaya and the journalist Aleh Hruzdzilovich directed a cassation complaint on the decision of Minsk Maskowski District Court, made on July 20. In the verdict the civic suit of vice-Head of the investigative committee at Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus Anatol Smalentsaw to newspaper «Naviny», Vera Stramkowskaya and Aleh Hruzdzilovich was satisfied. The court found the information V. Stramkowskaya and A. Hruzdzilovich had distributed at the sitting of Krychaw Area Court of Mahilow region on the case against ex-Chairman of «Rassvet» collective farm Vasil Staravoitaw on March 4, 1999 insulting for Smalentsaw's honor and dignity. In private, the advocate was talking about disappearance of 40 bottles of cognac «Bely Aist», confiscated after a search in Staravoitaw's house. Then Aleh Hruzdzilovich used this information in the article «Where's Staravoitaw's cognac?», published in the newspaper «Naviny» («News») on April 14, 1999. The court decided to exact 800 000 from the editorial staff of the newspaper, 60 000 – from Stramkowskaya and 500 000 – from Hruzdzilovich as a compensation for the moral harm done to A. Smalentsaw. Besides, the court verdict obliged the newspaper «Naviny» (which doesn't exist already) to disprove the publication.

On August 16 the Economic Crimes Department (ECD) started examining the activities of Vawkavysk human rights center "Aslona". The head of Vawkavysk ECD Yawhen Charniawski and employee Vital Baltrukevich visited the office of "Aslona". According to Mikola Kavalchuk, chair of "Aslona", they explained their visit by the need to examine the documentation for the office equipment that belonged to "Aslona". They said the examination was connected with computer recent frequent cases of theft. Mikola Kavalchuk said this explanation did not make sense. To his mind, the real goal of the visit was "neutralization of promotion campaign in support of the united presidential

candidate and eliminate any possibility to distribute printed material". Their conversation lasted for 1 hour, and, according to Kavalchuk, ECD employees reassured him that further actions would be taken in connection with the activities of "Aslona".

On August 27 and 28 the Ministry of Justice issued 2 written warnings to the Human Rights Center "Viasna". At the same time the Ministry of Justice distributed its press release, stating that now it's discussing the issue over liquidation of "Viasna". The Ministry of Justice accused "Viasna" in publishing more than 299 copies of the special issue of our bulletin. The second warning was issued for not submitting the lists of people, nominated by Viasna to be election observers. The Ministry states that we "violated the provisions of Instruction for record keeping in the Ministries, state committees and other executive bodies, institutions, organizations and enterprises of Belarus, adopted by the order of State Committee for archives and record keeping of the Republic of Belarus # 13, on May 23, 1995". Sending out its press release, the Ministry of Justice intends to cause complications in registration of the observers, nominated by "Viasna". "Viasna" activists believe that such a pressure on "Viasna" is caused by their consistent position and activities in protection of the human rights in Belarus and their active participation in "Independent Monitoring" campaign.

On August 30 at 11.30 a.m. the criminal detection policemen came to the private apartment of Viktar Ramanishka. Viktar Ramanishka is a member of the Human Rights Center "Viasna" in Svetlahorsk (Homel region). The police had a search warrant. They explained their visit by the fact that a computer had been stolen from the local church and they had to check if that computer was not in the apartment of Ramanishka. Out of 3 policemen only one introduced himself – investigator Sniazhko. Certainly, no computer was found in the apartment. Viktar Ramanishka: "This is not their first visit… They come several times a week, they can always make up a reason…" The same very day the office of Rechytsa branch of Homel NGO "Civic Initiatives" was searched. In that case the police was looking for paint. It's connected with anti-Lukashenka graffiti, which appear in town very often. Paint was not found.

On September 1 the police detained Ales Bialatski, the chair of the Human Rights Center "Viasna". Ales Bialatski was detained and taken to Savetski District Board of Internal Affairs. The police said the reason for detention was checking of the documents and identity.

About 2 p.m. Ales Bialatski was at Varvasheni Street, where he sat in a car. In some time the police made the car stop. Several people in civil clothes went out of the white "Vaz" car, with license plate 83-91 MAE. They neither introduced themselves, nor

showed any documents. However they demanded that the car with Ales Bialatski should follow them to Savetski DBIA. Ales Bialatski and the driver refused to obey and called the lawyer of "Viasna" Valantsin Stefanovich, who came to help. In some time a police car came to the place of the incident and one of the policemen sat in the car together with Ales Bialatski. After that all 3 cars went to Savetski DBIA. Ales Bialatski was released only 5 hours later.

On 9 October the Human Rights Center «Viasna» received a statement of the Supreme Court, where it refuses to bring up criminal charges, based on the complaint, which had been submitted to the Central Election Commission on September 10. The Human Rights Center «Viasna» appealed against the statement of the Central Election Committee, which considered the plea of «Viasna» not to recognize the election ungrounded. The Supreme Court refused to hear the case and based the arguments on article 79 of the Election Code, saying that the Supreme Court can hear only the cases when the Central Election Committee does not recognize the election; and the decision of the CEC to recognize the election is not appealable. However, the Supreme Court purposely cited article 79 inaccurately. The article says the CEC's decision can be appealed against, saying nothing about what kind of decision it is. Besides that, the reply of the Court practically says that the decisions of CEC are not appealable. However, according to the legislation, citizens can appeal to court against any decision of any state body.

On October 25 Minsk City Court rejected the cassation complaint of the advocate Vera Stramkowskaya and the journalist Aleh Hruzdzilovich against the verdict of Minsk Maskowski District Court, made on the suit of the Head of the Prosecution group of Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus A. Smalentsaw. It was the first time the court of the second instance found the advocate guilty. The judges of Minsk City Court, Dulup, Hlukowskaya and Zhupikava decided to set the complaint aside. It means that the advocate was found guilty for the actions connected with the duty and committed in the working time. According to the experts, such decision of the court can put a beginning to a vexatious practice in the interrelations between the Prosecutors and the advocates. Harry Pahaniaila stated that the advocates will soon appeal to the supreme organs against the decision of Minsk City Court. If the Belarusian organs refuse to consider the complaint, Vera Stramkowskaya and Aleh Hruzdzilovich can apply to the UN Committee on Human Rights.

On December 9, the people in many Belarusian towns conducted actions in the frames of "We Want to Know the Truth!" campaign, celebrating the Day of Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Active participants of the events were detained in Hrodna

and Brest. In Hrodna about 30 people participated in the event, which lasted for about 40 minutes. The police suggested the group to break up. In the end the police detained Zmitser Karpenka, a member UCP and Sviatlana Nekh, a member of Belarusian Social Democratic Youth “Maladaya Hramada”. In 1,5 hours the detained were released, the police did not draw up reports. In Brest there were about 30 people participating in the action. In 40 minutes after the beginning deputy head of Leninski district police department Kregel gave an order to detain the participants. The people resisted, they would sit down on the ground and wouldn’t move. The police took 12 people to the station: E. Karpiuk, M. Klimovich, M. Mikaluk, S. Kazlow, M. Kazimirchyk, V. Barbulin, U. Malei, U. Vialichkin, R. Antaniuk, P. Panasiuk, H. Samoilenka, and Aleksiyevich. The police drew up reports under article 167 part 1. Three people were also accused under article 166 (insubordination to police). All the detained were released at 6.30 p.m. In Homel from 3 to 4 p.m. the members of the Homel branch of “Viasna”, Belarusian Popular Front, and youth organizations “Hart” and “Zubr” conducted an action “The Chain of Concerned People. About 50 people took part in the event. Homel police observed the action. The police did not detain the action participants, though the action wasn’t authorized.

On December 10 Barysaw Human Rights Center "Viasna" organized an event, dedicated to the Day of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. About 10 members of "Viasna", Young Front and Zubr went to the town center, distributing the Declaration texts and "The Right to Freedom" bulletin. No people were detained.

On December 10, the Day of Universal Declaration of Human Rights the Human Rights Center “Viasna”, together with artist Ales Pushkin, organized exhibition "Unauthorized by Censorship". It was opened with a performance. The performance started at 3 p.m. on Dzimitraw street in Minsk, near the place, where a recently destroyed building of the synagogue had been situated. Ales Pushkin, dressed in a black chasuble of an inquisitor, covered with chains and dried fish symbolized the inquisitor essence of censorship and its results – dried life. Here, on the construction fence there were the banned artworks presented. Art critic Siarhei Kharewski told the visitors about the history of censorship in Belarus. At 5 p.m. the exhibition was publicly opened at "Zolata" art gallery. In his opening speech chairperson of "Viasna" Ales Bialatski said the organizers wanted to show the situation with human rights in Belarus on the example of artists. The next person to take the floor was poet Eduard Akulin, whose book "Radno" was liquidated by the officials, who considered his poems "too political". The next to speak was Valery Mazynski, chief producer of "Volnaya Scena" (Free Stage) theater, who had to leave it after production of "Prince Mambuk". Artists Mikola Kupava, Aleh Karpovich, and many other famous people were speaking at the opening of the

exhibition. Most of the exhibits are canvasses: paintings of Ales Pushkin, Artur Klinaw, Tatsiana Markavets, drawings of Aleh Karpovich, Lew Talbuzin, installations of Ales Pushkin, Lew Talbuzin and Alaksei Marachkin, a sculpture by Mikhail Inkow… The exhibition of the banned works of art lasted for 10 days, till December 20.

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